Hafa Adai!

Babauta, Manglona cancel BOOST Program joint meeting today. PAGE 3
Mobil Oil Marianas donates $1.5K to Red Cross. PAGE 6

$1

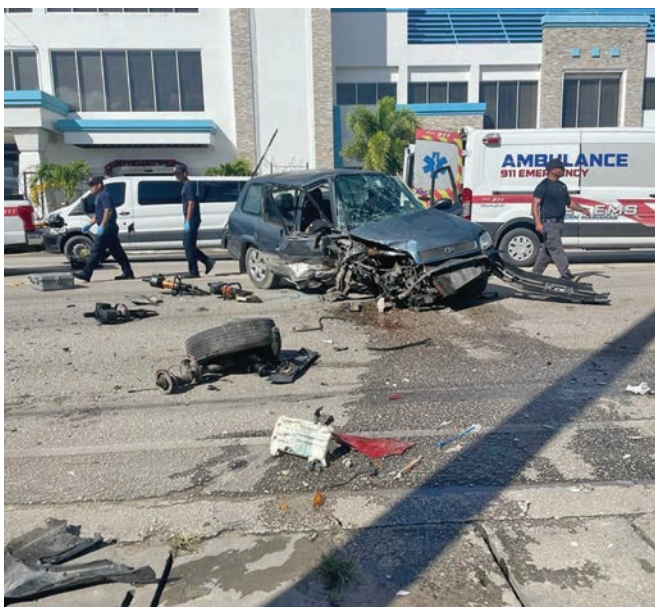
Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 240

www.saipantribune.com | FRIDAY DECEMBER 2, 2022 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Four injured in car collision



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This green Toyota RAV4 is almost totaled after colliding with a sedan along Route 30 in Chalan Kanoa yesterday morning.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A collision between a sedan and a sports utility vehicle along Route 30 in Chalan Kanoa sent four individuals to the Commonwealth Health Center's emergency room yesterday morning and blocked the highway on both sides, causing major traffic in the area.

According to Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services spokesperson Robert Mojica, a woman called 911 at around 9:40am and reported a motor vehicle collision in front of Great Harvest Bakery

See INJURED on Page 4

MVA introduces a Mini Christmas Village that will light up Garapan Fishing Base

TOGETHER, WE CAN

By JUDY C. TORRES
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Judy C. Torres is acting managing director of the Marianas Visitors Authority and. She has over 30 years experience in the Marianas travel and tourism industry. The GCEA's mission is to improve the quality of life in the Marianas for all residents.

Christmas in the Marianas is one of the Marianas Visitors Authority's most popular annual signature events, second only to the Taste of the Marianas during Tourism Month in May. It's also a great way for our community to share our cultural Christmas traditions.

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

See TOGETHER on Page 4

HYATT USHERS IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Joined by members of the Glushko Girls Ballet, 500 Sails, Boonie Babies Saipan, and hotel guests and visitors, Hyatt Regency Saipan employees led by general manager Guillaume Delemarle celebrate their traditional lighting of the Christmas Tree yesterday at the hotel's main lobby in Garapan. The event coincided with the celebration of Hyatt's 42 years of being on Saipan.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

2 accused of illegal Guam entry plead guilty

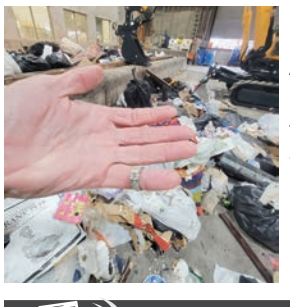
By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two of the 16 Chinese nationals who are accused of illegally entering Guam on a boat to evade immigration processing have pleaded guilty to the charges and are now awaiting sentencing.

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has accepted the guilty pleas of Zeng Guosheng and Sun Xiaojuan, two individuals separately charged with the same crime—conspiracy to transport illegal aliens. The two entered their guilty pleas before Magistrate Judge Heather

See ACCUSED on Page 4

INSIDE

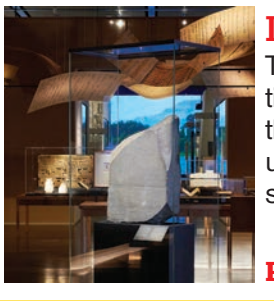


OFF THE WALL
A celery stalk sighting and a little luck came together to help a man find his wife's wedding rings.

PAGE 20

SCIENCE & TECH
The number of babies born in Japan this year is critically below last year's record low.

PAGE 21



LIFE & STYLE
Thousands of Egyptians are demanding that the British Museum return the Rosetta stone.

PAGE 22

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Merry Christmas!
10% - 20% - 50% toy sale!!!
7 days
Dec 2 to Dec 8 layaways welcome!
Toys & Clothes
for children ages 0 to 10
LOLLIPOPS
BEACH RD., GARAPAN
Mon - Sat: 9am - 7pm & Sun: 10am - 4pm
TEL. 234-8040
Like us on Facebook

Local

Probable cause found vs man accused of entering a woman's home while she slept

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has found probable cause to try a man accused of breaking into a woman's home while she was asleep and removing her blanket.

During a preliminary hearing, Superior Court associate judge Joseph Camacho found probable cause to charge Tyneth S. Mariur with burglary and disturbing the peace for allegedly breaking into the woman's home and removing her blanket.

At the preliminary hearing, the court heard testimony, which led the court to find probable cause to believe that Mariur committed the crimes he is accused of.

"The defendant is therefore held to answer said charges," said Camacho.

Mariur was arrested last month after a woman called police reporting an attempted rape in Chalan Kiya.

According to court documents, Department of Public Safety officers responded last Nov. 12 to a call about an attempted rape in a house in Chalan Kiya at around 4:11am. At the scene, officers met with the victim who was in tears inside a car near the house.

She told police that she got home from work on Friday night at around 10pm and went to bed. However, she left her door unlocked in case her boyfriend arrives and sleeps over.

At around 3am, she was awakened by the feeling of someone pulling off her blanket. She said when she looked up, she saw Mariur standing next to her and holding her blanket. This prompted the victim to scream, get out of bed, and run to her car where she called her boyfriend and the police.

At the scene, police also interviewed Mariur who, police noted, smelled heavily of alcohol.

Mariur told police that he heard someone at the back of his house so he went over to the victim's residence to ask

See PROBABLE on Page 4

HANA
HEALTH MASSAGE
SERVICES OFFERED
▪ Body (Oil) Massage ▪ Foot Massage (with medicine) ▪ Cupping Therapy (Suction cup massage for back pain)
▪ NEW! Table Shower and Body Scrub Spa - Soon in San Antonio Location
SPECIAL PROMO
▪ 90 minutes Body (Oil) Massage $30
Locations: ▪ MSV Building, Chalan Kanoa across Moonlight
▪ NEW location → San Antonio, across Afetna Super Market
10:00AM TO 12:00AM • Call HANA: 789-7778
WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS

CROWNE PLAZA
AN IHG HOTEL
RESORT SAIPAN
MERRY CHRISTMAS
CELEBRATE THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR
AT CROWNE PLAZA RESORT SAIPAN
THE TERRACE
Christmas Eve Dinner Buffet
5:30 PM - 9:30 PM
Adult $65 / Child(ages 4-11) $25
Book by December 9 for
a 10% early bird discount
Christmas Brunch Buffet
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Adult $75 / Child(ages 4-11) $25
Book by December 9 for
a 20% early bird discount
Christmas Dinner Buffet
5:30 PM - 9:30 PM
Adult $65 / Child(ages 4-11) $25
Book by December 9 for
a 10% early bird discount
mari bar
Holiday Season Happy Hour
Enjoy 25% off on all beverages
Daily from 5 - 7 PM at Mari Bar
Available until December 30, 2022
Scan QR code for reservations at The Terrace
Scan QR code for reservations at Mari Bar
CROWNE PLAZA RESORT SAIPAN
RESERVATIONS CALL 670 234 6414 | VISIT WEBSITE SAIPAN.CROWNEPLAZA.COM

Babauta, Manglona cancel BOOST Program joint meeting today

TAK

A coastal gun that's a relic of the World War II Battle of Tarawa.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and the Committee on Ways and Means have canceled until further notice their scheduled joint meeting today, Friday, regarding the Torres administration's Building Optimism, Opportunities, and Stability Together, or BOOST Program.

JGO chair Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) and Ways and Means chair Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) notified their members about the cancellation Wednesday. They did not explain the reason behind the cancellation.

Babauta

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry, Babauta disclosed yesterday that there is no need to hold the joint meeting today because William Castro, who is Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' chief of staff, asked for more time to respond to their subpoena and they granted it.

After granting the extension, there was no need to hold Castro in contempt, she added.

The committees had included "contempt" in the agenda of the supposed joint meeting.

The committees issued subpoenas to compel some entities and persons, including Castro, to produce documents and testify related to the BOOST Program.

The committees want to hold a meeting in their bid to find out, among other things, who have been awarded under the BOOST Program and those who have been denied, or are still awaiting disposition.

The BOOST Program is a project of the Office of the Governor and the Department of Commerce that aims to provide financial assistance to CNMI businesses and non-profit organizations. The Bank of Saipan is the administrator of the program.

Kiribati to promote 80th commemoration of WWII in 2023

As Kiribati concluded the commemoration of the 79th anniversary of World War II on the islands of Butaritari and Betio in South Tarawa, the Tourism Authority of Kiribati said that many untold stories about these historical events in 1943 makes Kiribati an intriguing island destination for battlefield tours.

TAK chief executive officer Petero Manufolau made the comments following the final commemoration of World War II event at the Japan and Korean memorial monuments in Tabon Takoronga on Betio, South Tarawa.

"[While] most of what we know about these historical World War II events are documented," Manufolau said, "first-hand accounts of survivors on the islands of Tarawa and Butaritari offer a fascinating and emotional journey into what was a significant part of the island destination's history."

To share the many untold, undocumented, and undiscovered remnants of World War II in Kiribati, TAK will begin work to develop "relive and re-discover Kiribati WWll packages" for the 80th anniversary celebrations in November 2023.

Through its engagement with the U.S., Japan, and Korea on battlefield tours and war relics preservation, TAK will collaborate with local stakeholders and international World War II travel and tour operators to develop and promote battlefield tour products in Kiribati.

Manufolau said the Kiribati WWll 80th anniversary in 2023 "will be an excellent opportunity for families and relatives of U.S, Japanesem and Korean servicemen whose lives were lost in Tarawa and Butaritari to visit Kiribati to honor their memories. …Such a visit will also allow relatives to connect with I-Kiribati people who have become custodians and guides of the remains of their loved ones on these islands."

Visitors to Kiribati can enjoy World War ll guided tours in Tarawa and Butaritari with trained guides and historians. ***(PR)***

ARMATECH
Wireless WIFI Antenna Installer and Repairer
Tel: (670) 234-8895 I Email: armatech.saipan@gmail.com
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

Think safe.
Be safe.
Work safe.
Unsafe gas appliances can put you at risk from carbon monoxide poisoning, gas leaks, fires and explosion
Check your gas appliances frequently for:
Distinct odor of rotten eggs
A hissing sound
Transparent vapor waves or frost spots
LP GAS
WUSHIN
Since1983
Committed to Safety Excellence
For your LPGas needs, please call 322-7415 or 322-8733
Open from 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday to Friday I 8:00am – 2:00pm Saturday

OPM'S CITIZEN-CENTRIC REPORT FOR FY 2022

ARPA generates over 500 jobs in Executive Branch

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The American Rescue Plan Act continued to play a vital role in the CNMI's workforce, generating well over 500 jobs in the Executive Branch alone, according to the Office of Personnel Management's Citizen-Centric Report for Fiscal Year 2022.

OPM's report stated that combined funding sources of general funds and federally funded sources allowed for 185 examination announcements to be processed through OPM.

» Desk audits for DOC, DPS completed
» Substance abuse continues to be a challenge in government workforce

At the House of Representatives session Wednesday, Rep. Sheila J. Babauta (D-Saipan) said the Legislature funds OPM to carry out desk audits and that it would be a great idea for it to come in and present the results.

Babauta said she has spoken to the OPM director and it is something that they are interested in doing because they are excited about their findings.

"We funded a project, they completed it and now it's like turning in your homework to the teacher," she said.

The OPM's Citizen-Centric Report disclosed the completion this past year of two major desk audits—for the Department of Corrections and for the Department of Public Safety.

OPM said the desk audits provided OPM with a greater understanding of the needs of the departments.

OPM said work now begins on how to improve, based upon the findings of each audit.

Babauta said OPM staff are ready to present their findings and await an invitation from House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan).

"I think this is going to be a really great example and a model to show how a Legislature funds, like we have the discussion, we move funding, we fund something. And then an agency carries out the responsibility and gathers findings and now we have this data that's going to be provided to the people who funded it."

Babauta said they can use this data to make better decisions and that she is hoping to schedule OPM's presentation this month.

Babauta suggested inviting the representatives-elect to OPM's presentation as the audit findings will be helpful to them.

Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) echoed her support for scheduling a meeting with OPM to present the desk audits for DOC and DPS.

Sablan suggested inviting members of governor-elect Arnold I. Palacios' transition committee who will also be reviewing DOC and DPS.

"I think that would be very helpful to them as well," she said.

OPM's report also disclosed, among other things, that for fiscal year 2021 they conducted 14 trainings with 215 participants, and for FY 2022 they held 25 trainings with 338 participants.

One of the biggest expenses that OPM incurred in the past year was for office equipment and capital items in the amount of $19,761. All computers and scanners were upgraded.

After all expenses, OPM said they will realize a carryover amount of approximately $124,858 in ARPA funds in personnel in FY 2023.

OPM said this is in anticipation of fund reimbursement from 401A and health insurance expenses in the amount of $22,568.

This carryover amount, OPM said, will be extremely necessary for them due to the zero fund allotment in the FY 2023 budget.

The OPM report also disclosed that substance abuse continues to be a challenge within the government workforce.

OPM said they maintain strict adherence to the regulations and continues to administer drug testing throughout the government, specifically with safety-sensitive positions.

OPM said drug testing remains a vital component of their function.

OPM said there was one demotion, 13 suspensions, and 12 terminations, for a total of 26 adverse actions in FY 2022.

ACCUSED

From Page 1

Kennedy during a change of plea hearing yesterday at the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

"Court found that the defendants were fully competent to enter a knowing, voluntary and intelligent plea. Court will recommend accepting the defendants' guilty plea and will file a written finding and recommendation for the District Court judge's consideration. The parties will have 14 days to file objections. Sentencing will be set after the District Court judge accepts the findings and recommendations," Kennedy stated in her order.

The two will be sentenced on Jan. 9, 2023, at 1:30pm.

Zeng was released from custody and was ordered to abide by the conditions of his release. Sun was released from his third-party custodian and is now out on his personal recognizance.

Following the hearing, Kennedy ordered that the plea agreements be unsealed, and the jury trials be vacated.

According to court documents, Zeng was one of eight defendants in this case. His co-defendants are Lu Haiyan, Li Fu, Li Xiang, Wang Shuyuan, Shangguan Xunan, Liu Ying, And Wu Xiuying.

Prior to this indictment, the United States indicted five others—Sun Xiaojuan, Zhang Liangxian, Gao Bingxing, Jin Suling, and Zhang Weifu—on the same charges and allegations.

Following both these indictments, an indictment was signed for the arrest of three more defendants accused of the same crime; they are She Gaoqin, Lou Youhou, and Guan Caiping.

According to all three indictments, all three groups of Chinese nationals are facing charges of conspiracy to transport illegal aliens. They allegedly chipped in to buy a boat that they later used to transport themselves and four others to Guam to avoid immigration.

According to the indictment, on July 2022, the defendants pooled their money to purchase a boat on Saipan. The boat, which is approximately 20 feet long with a fiberglass hull and motorized propeller, was used by the defendants to travel from the CNMI to Guam.

The defendants allegedly used the boat to get to Guam because they wanted to avoid immigration processes that was anticipated if travel was completed by commercial airplane.

Authorities located the boat in the Hagatna Boat Basin later.

It was later learned that the defendants do not have valid legal immigration status.

INJURED

From Page 1

in Chalan Kanoa.

Due to the nature of the call, units were dispatched to the scene, where it was discovered that four individuals were involved in the crash. They were then transported to the CHC emergency room. Fortunately, Mojica said, there were no fatalities.

He said that medics responded to the scene at 9:41am and they were soon at the scene at 9:43am. "There was a total of four patients that were treated on scene, fully immobilized, and transported to the hospital…" Mojica said.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Adrian Pangelinan corroborated the details of the accident and stated that the victims remain at CHC.

The accident remains under investigation. The police have yet to release the names of the persons involve in the collision.

Videos of the crash went viral on various social media platforms, showing a red sedan pulled to the side of the northbound lane, while a green Toyota RAV4 was seen nearly totaled in the middle of the road.

The entire passenger side of the RAV4 was destroyed and was barely recognizable while the sedan sustained comparatively lesser damage.

Saipan Tribune went to the scene and interviewed individuals who were present during the incident.

According to a man who was working nearby, he said the driver and passenger of the green Toyota RAV4 was headed south along Route 30 when the driver of the sedan came out from the Great Harvest Bakery side of the road, colliding with the SUV.

"It was the sedan's fault because the other car had right of way. Also, it's like he wasn't paying attention and was just in a rush to get to the main road," the witness said.

No further details were given about the accident.

TOGETHER

From Page 1

Honoring our traditions is important. The oldest Christmas tradition in my family is welcoming the *niño*, or Baby Jesus, into our home. This holiday tradition has always been a significant part of our culture, and it serves as a reminder of what Christmas is all about. Even during the pandemic, my immediate family continued the *niño* tradition together, as my cousins and I took the Baby Jesus around to our family members and sang Christmas carols. Especially, Iit is a meaningful way to share our traditions,, especially with the younger members of our family.

With the lifting of most COVID-19 social restrictions and the resumption of international flights from both Korea and Japan this year, we strongly feel it is the right time to bring back Christmas in the Marianas in all its glory. We received many questions about when or if the annual Christmas in the Marianas event would happen this year, and after careful consideration, we are excited to bring it back for our residents and visitors, who also look forward to celebrating Christmas and New Year's even while on vacation.

When we reached out to our community, we received an enthusiastic response from the schools, who are integral to the event's success, as well as our annual partners—Paseo De Marianas Promoters, Pacific Development Inc., and Chamolinian Cultural Village Inc. Everyone in the Marianas is anticipating the return of this event, which kicks off this Saturday, Dec. 3, at 5pm.

To help everyone fully enjoy the festivities, we will be hosting this year's event at Garapan Fishing Base due to the construction happening at Paseo de Marianas, where we usually host it. We've added new light sculptures and a mini Christmas Village that will help to fill the large exhibit space at Garapan Fishing Base. We want to create a beautiful, walk-through experience that will attract our community and visitors to make wonderful holiday memories.

It will be a photo-worthy environment for taking and sharing photos, too. We encourage everyone to use the hashtags #VisitTheMarianas and #TheMarianas in their social media posts so that the world can experience our island Christmas. We have a special entertainment feature that you won't want to miss this on opening night this Saturday, Dec. 3, at 8 pm—the Reggae Island Party sneak peek.

We are continuing annual activities such as Christmas caroling and performances, food and drink sales, Christmas displays, and more this year. We also have a special contest, the Mini Christmas Village contest, where we will display the artistic works of six high schools and three community members for all to see. Roadside sculptures along Beach Road will also be illuminated throughout the holiday season.

The celebrations will take place from 5pm to 9pm on Dec. 3, 10, and 17, 2022, and Jan. 7, 2023. On Dec. 17, at 6pm after sunset, an illuminated Christmas parade will be held from American Memorial Park to Garapan Fishing Base. There will also be a Christmas costume contest and the Japanese Mochitsuki Festival on that night.

As the saying goes, tourism is everyone's business, and thanks to our sponsors and supporters, we can bring the holidays to life. Thank you to Lollipops, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, Aqua Resort Club Saipan, Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods, Century Hotel, iShop, DFS T Galleria, Marpac, E-Land Group, Docomo Pacific, Hawaiian Rock Products, and Dave's Electronics for their valuable support.

I'd also like to thank our government partners for their support of this event: the Department of Public Lands, the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, the Office of Indigenous Affairs, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., the Department of Public Works, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, the Saipan Zoning Office, the Office of Grants Management, the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, and the Division of Parks and Recreation.

Together, We Can spread holiday cheer and light up the Marianas for all to enjoy. On behalf of the Marianas Visitors Authority, we wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

For more information, visit the GCEA at cnmieconomy.com, on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmigov.economy), or contact them at gceacnmi@gmail.com.

PROBABLE

From Page 2

the woman's boyfriend, a cop, to help him look around for "stealers." However, when no one responded to his knocks, Mariur said he entered the home and called out to the cop from the living room.

He said while he was calling out for the cop, the woman woke up and asked him what he was doing inside the house, to which he responded that he was looking for her boyfriend.

When the victim told Mariur that her boyfriend was outside their house, he went out in search for him and when he returned, the woman told him to go home.

House OKs bill that allows right-hand drive vehicles 25 years old or older

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives passed Wednesday a bill that will allow the importation into the CNMI and registration of right-hand drive vehicles that are 25 years or older.

All 19 House members present in the session, voted "yes" to the passage of House Bill 22-79, HS1, which was authored by Rep. Richard T. Lizama (D-Saipan). The bill now goes to the Senate for action.

Before the voting, the House adopted the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations report that recommended that the bill be passed with amendments to provide clarity in the findings and purpose section of the legislation.

Lizama stated in the bill that registration of right-hand drive vehicles in the CNMI is prohibited under the Commonwealth Code unless such vehicles legally entered the CNMI prior to Dec. 30, 1991, or if such vehicles' primary use is for agricultural or construction purposes.

Lizama said many residents of the CNMI have made their concerns known when it comes to registering and/or importing right-hand drive vehicles for their personal use.

He said this legislation brings attention to the public interest in importing right-hand drive vehicles that are permitted under current U.S. Vehicle Regulations, namely the 25-year "Classic" exemption.

According to the JGO report, the enactment of the legislation will not result in additional costs to the CNMI government; on the contrary, it aims to generate additional revenue due to the probable increase in vehicle registrations for operating purposes.

The JGO, chaired by Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan), said this avenue will allow for interested motorists to register their right-hand drive vehicle(s) with the Bureau of Motor Vehicle.

The JGO said right-hand drive vehicles are common modes of transportation used in foreign countries such as Japan, Hong Kong, South Africa, and Great Britain.

In the U.S., left-hand drive vehicles are the most commonly used vehicle among motorists.

The JGO found that there are no laws in the U.S. that prohibit the use of right-hand drive vehicles since they are obligated to obey the same traffic rules and regulations as other vehicles.

The JGO said there are no mandatory steering wheel structure regulations for vehicles as long as they abide and comply with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency regulations.

The JGO said the use of right-hand drive vehicles should be permitted since they do not violate any federal law and regulation regarding vehicles.

Pursuant to the Commonwealth Code, right-hand drive vehicles are prohibited unless they are heavy equipment or construction vehicles. Under the statute, the JGO said, a right-hand drive vehicle must be converted to a left-hand drive vehicle in order to be lawfully registered in the CNMI. The JGO found this requirement to be very costly and inhibits the registration of such vehicles.

The JGO also found that pursuant to a federal statute, a non-complying motor vehicle shall be exempted from the importation restriction if the vehicle is at least 25 years old. The JGO said the proposed legislation aims to follow this federal statute.

Application Deadline: December 9, 2022

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONGRESSMAN GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN
Serving the People of the Northern Mariana Islands

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR
MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMY
CONGRESSIONAL NOMINATIONS

Opportunities to learn and serve at a U.S. Service Academy include a **fully funded undergraduate education** and a **commission as a military officer** upon graduation.

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
U.S. Military Academy
U.S. Air Force Academy
U.S. Naval Academy

Eligibility: U.S. citizen, unmarried with no dependents, age 17-23, high school senior or graduate, and must meet the medical, physical, and academic requirements of the Academies

To access the nomination application or for more information, visit sablan.house.gov or call 670-323-2647/8 on Saipan, 433-2647 on Tinian, or 532-2647 on Rota.

Paid for by official funds authorized by the House of Representatives.

KIA 2023 KIA SOUL

Starting at $129* per paycheck*

• UP TO 33 MPG • Standard Auto Emergency Braking Technology

Visit us at www.joetenmotors.com • Tel. (670) 234-5562

SHOWROOM HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY 8AM - 5PM • SATURDAY 8AM - 12PM
Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • Some conditions apply • While Supplies last.

Joeten Motors POWERED BY YOU
Facebook

*2023 Kia Soul LX FWD at $22,695 with 20% down at 2.75% for 72 months at 26 pay periods per year. O.A.C. deferred financing $20,145.81. See dealer for details.

GUANGDONG HARDWARE
Never satisfied until you are
NEW ARRIVAL
G24 & G26 G.I. ROOFING TIN SECURITY DOOR, G.I. PIPES, G.I. SQUARE TUBE, G.I. C CHANNEL & Z CHANNEL, 2x4 RECTANGULAR TUBE, SHORING JACK, OFFICE TABLE AND CHAIR, US MADE WATER HEATER, TEMPERED GLASS ALUMINUM SLIDING WINDOW.
NEW ARRIVAL
Furniture

Make a Difference for Your House!

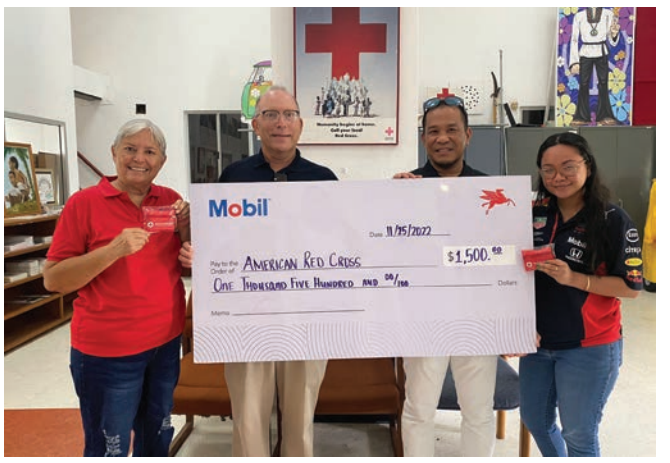
NEW ARRIVALS!
CARPOLY PAINT
It's the suitable paint for the island climate.
Make your paint last for a long time!

1 FREE T-shirt with one time purchase of two buckets of
CARPOLY
Professional Paint Solution Provider
First Come First Served, While Stocks Last
LED LIGHTS
• Less money, 50% energy saving!
• More stable, bright, and fashionable!
• More longer and environmental protection!
Your Smart Choice!
G60 Rebar is Available Now!
CHEAPEST DEALER OF MAJOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ON ISLAND!
P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488
E-mail:guangdong_hardware@163.com
BUSINESS HOURS:
Monday to Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Mobil donates $1.5K to Red Cross

Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc. has donated $1,500 to the NMI Chapter of the American Red Cross over the Thanksgiving holiday. Mobil has consistently supported the Red Cross in the NMI and throughout the region for the past 25 years.

"We are grateful to Mobil for their support. They believe in the Red Cross and our humanitarian mission here in the Marianas," said John Hirsh, executive director of the American Red Cross–NMI Chapter. "Mobil Oil and its regional team have provided significant support over the years to our fundraising events and especially after large catastrophic natural disasters like typhoosn Soudelor, Mangkutm and Yutu. This generosity has enabled us to provide help to those in need."



From left, Jovita Flores, JEM company operator; John Hirsh, executive director of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter; Sergio Alves, retail manager, Mobil Oil Guam, Inc.; and Malaina Kileleman, retail territory manager Saipan. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nationally, the American Red Cross shelters, feeds, and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families.

The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the public to perform its mission.

For more information, visit redcross.org/nmi or call the NMI Chapter office at (670) 234-3459. ***(PR)***

New resource document explains job rights of service members, veterans

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has released a resource document, "Protections Against Employment Discrimination for Service Members and Veterans," describing federal protections from unlawful employment discrimination against service members and veterans.

The document—jointly-authored by the EEOC, the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, the U.S. Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service, and the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division—details federal laws and other authorities that provide workplace protections specific to service members and veterans. For the first time, it provides a single publication to help veterans and service members determine which laws and federal agencies are responsible for enforcing their workplace rights and where to seek assistance if they believe those rights have been violated.

"Our military members sacrifice immensely to keep our country safe, and whether they are actively serving, reservists, or veterans, we must ensure they know their workplace rights and how to enforce them if they experience discrimination." said EEOC chair Charlotte A. Burrows. "This document clearly explains that they are protected from discrimination because of their military service, veterans status, disability or other reasons, such as their race, religion, national origin, sex (including pregnancy, sexual orientation or gender identity), age, or genetic information."

Assistant attorney general Kristen Clarke of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division said, "We owe our servicemembers, veterans, and their families a deep debt of gratitude for their service to our country. Through rigorous enforcement of federal civil rights laws, the Justice Department is working hard to ensure that the rights of our brave servicemembers and veterans are safeguarded from discrimination and unfair treatment."

In addition to providing information about laws that specifically protect service members and veterans, the document explains general protections from retaliation, disability discrimination, sexual harassment, and other covered bases. ***(PR)***

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
MUSEUM
OF HISTORY & CULTURE
Fiesta FRIDAYS
FIESTA FRIDAYS DECEMBER SCHEDULE:
DECEMBER 2, 9 & 16, 2022
Good Food, Great Entertainment,
Bouncy House For Kids
Performers:
Kaliko Remix
Saipan Music and Dance School
Awadori • MHS Micronesian Cultural Club
CAB Dancers • MHS Polksai Guma Chamorro
Ben San Nicolas
Vendors:
Isla Shave Ice • RJ Pizza
Pate Puffs and Pastries • Buenas Cafe
Abygnale's • Kikass Snack Bar
Tyler's Gelatte Stone • Heavenly Bites
APU • V- Lynns BBQ
Mini Thai Catering • Chowtime
Island Grindz • Musubiya
Ocean Star Restaurant • Flowerpot Creations
Info Booth:
Covid19 Care Force (Giveaways)
Kids Activity:
Bouncy Houses for kids
FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 670.664-2160 • WWW.NMIMUSEUM.ORG

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Veterans invited to town hall meeting on Dec. 13

The CNMI Office of the Governor and the CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs invite all veterans residing on Saipan to attend a Village Town Hall meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2022, from 6pm to 8pm at the American Memorial Park Theater.

This Village Town Hall meeting is called at the behest of Maj. Gen. Reginald Neal, deputy commanding general of the U.S. Army Pacific, to engage in a forum with all veterans to enable them to voice their concerns, needs, and challenges and ask any questions that they may have. ***(PR)***

Seas hazardous to small craft until Monday

A small craft advisory will be in effect from 6am today, Friday, to 5pm Monday. This means that wind speeds of 21 to 33 knots are expected to produce wave conditions hazardous to small craft.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, eeast winds will be increasing to between 15 and 25 knots, with gusts of up to 30 knots, and seas will be increasing to between 10 and 13 feet in the coastal waters of Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Conditions will be hazardous to small craft. Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid boating in hazardous conditions. ***(PR)***

High risk of rip currents until Tuesday

The public is being warned of a high risk of rip currents through Tuesday afternoon on Saipan-Tinian, Rota, and Agrihan. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, dangerous rip currents are present in east-facing reefs of the Marianas through Tuesday afternoon.

A trade-wind swell will maintain surf of up to nine feet and a high risk of rip currents along east facing reefs the next several days. By late week, northeasterly trade swell will increase and will likely cause surf along north facing reefs to also increase. This could result in a high risk of rip currents along north reefs and hazardous surf along both north and east facing reefs for the weekend.

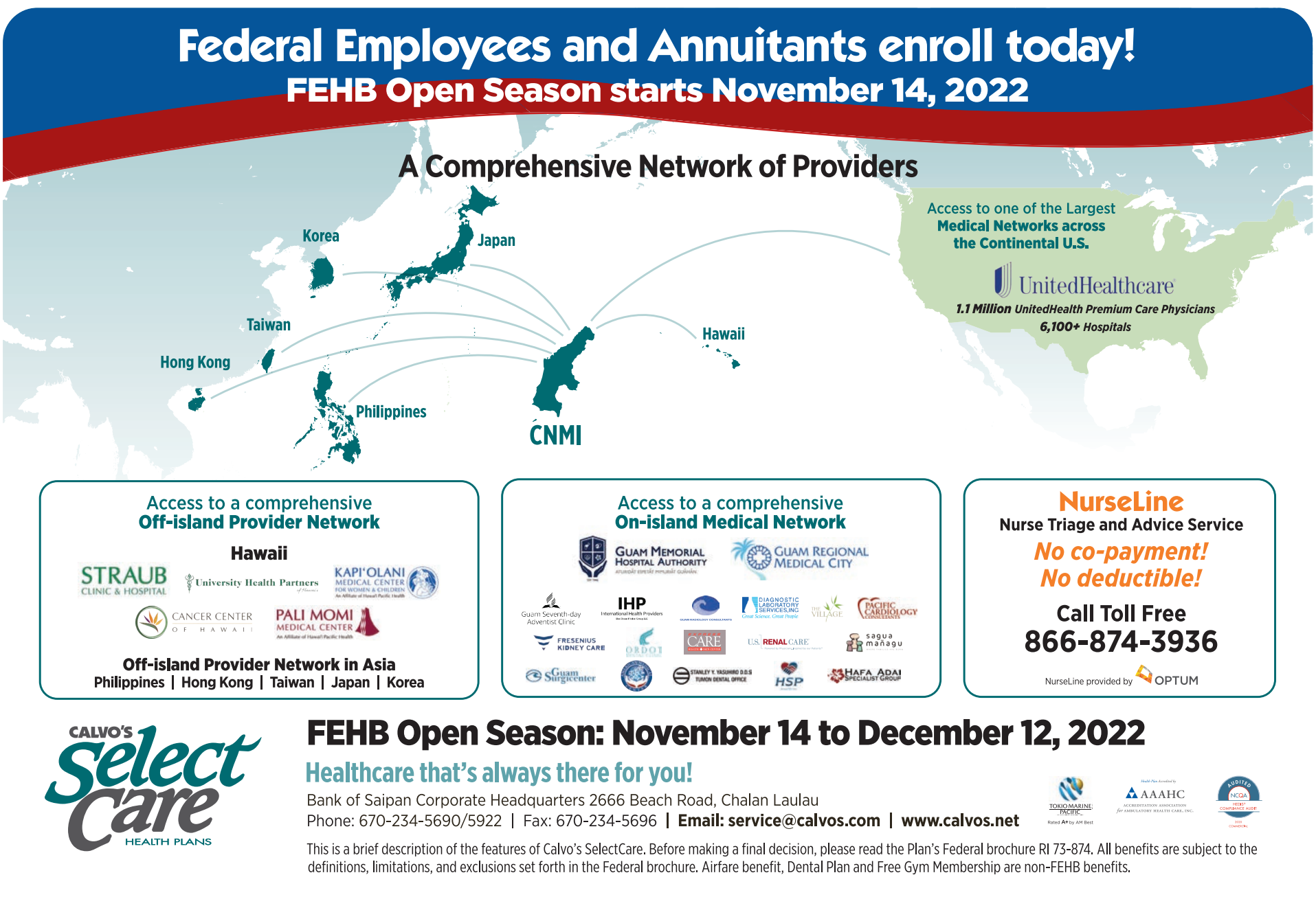
The public is advised to swim near a lifeguard. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don't swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and call or wave for help. ***(PR)***

Scheduled power service interruption on Dec. 3

There will be a scheduled power service interruption on Dec. 3, 2022, as the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. continues its ongoing system maintenance.

- Time: 6am to 9am
- Area(s) affected: As Terlaje, Kannat Tabla, Fina Sisu, Airport Road to Lower Dandan, Isley Field, Obyan, CPA Airport, As Lito to Chalan Monsignor Martinez Road, Saipan International School, Chalan Tun Joaquin Doi Road, and parts of Chalan Kanoa.
- Purpose: To perform line clearing along Monsignor Guerrero.
- Water wells affected: Dandan, Isley, Kannat Tabla and As Terlaje Tank Service Areas may be affected. Customers may experience low pressure to no water services, which is dependent on the tank level.
- Wastewater facility affected: A13, A14 and A15; however, lift stations will be monitored.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.comlCommonwealthUtilities-Corporation/). ***(PR)***


Federal Employees and Annuitants enroll today!
FEHB Open Season starts November 14, 2022
A Comprehensive Network of Providers
Korea
Japan
Taiwan
Hong Kong
Philippines
CNMI
Hawaii
Access to one of the Largest Medical Networks across the Continental U.S.
UnitedHealthcare
1.1 Million UnitedHealth Premium Care Physicians
6,100+ Hospitals
Access to a comprehensive Off-island Provider Network
Hawaii
STRAUB CLINIC & HOSPITAL
University Health Partners
KAPI'OLANI MEDICAL CENTER FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN
CANCER CENTER OF HAWAII
PALI MOMI MEDICAL CENTER
Off-island Provider Network in Asia
Philippines | Hong Kong | Taiwan | Japan | Korea
Access to a comprehensive On-island Medical Network
GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY
GUAM REGIONAL MEDICAL CITY
Guam Seventh-day Adventist Clinic
IHP
DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY SERVICES, INC.
THE VILLAGE
PACIFIC CARDIOLOGY CONSULTANTS
FRESENIUS KIDNEY CARE
CARE
U.S. RENAL CARE
sagua managu
Guam Surgicenter
STANLEY Y. YASUHIRO D.D.S TUMON DENTAL OFFICE
HSP
HAFA ADAI SPECIALIST GROUP
NurseLine
Nurse Triage and Advice Service
No co-payment!
No deductible!
Call Toll Free
866-874-3936
NurseLine provided by OPTUM
CALVO'S SelectCare HEALTH PLANS
FEHB Open Season: November 14 to December 12, 2022
Healthcare that's always there for you!
Bank of Saipan Corporate Headquarters 2666 Beach Road, Chalan Laulau
Phone: 670-234-5690/5922 | Fax: 670-234-5696 | Email: service@calvos.com | www.calvos.net
TOKIO MARINE PACIFIC
Rated A+ by AM Best
AAAHC
ACCREDITATION ASSOCIATION for AMBULATORY HEALTH CARE, INC.
NCQA
This is a brief description of the features of Calvo's SelectCare. Before making a final decision, please read the Plan's Federal brochure RI 73-874. All benefits are subject to the definitions, limitations, and exclusions set forth in the Federal brochure. Airfare benefit, Dental Plan and Free Gym Membership are non-FEHB benefits.

Man files prevailing wage suit against J.C. Tenorio Enterprises

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An employee of J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc., has filed a prevailing wage lawsuit against his employer in the U.S. District Court for the NMI, claiming he was not paid since 2019 the legal minimum wage as determined by the annual Prevailing Wage Survey.

Christopher Lilles, an IT technician employed by J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, through attorney James Sirok, is suing his employer for allegedly failing to pay him the legal minimum wage as set by the annual Prevailing Wage Survey, which is about $12 per hour.

"This is an action seeking monetary damages, restitution, and injunctive and relief from J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc., arising from its failure to comply with federal law and federal regulations requiring employers hiring CW-1 workers in the CNMI to pay them a specific minimum wage [that] equals or exceeds the highest of either the current published prevailing wage, the federal minimum wage, or the CNMI minimum wage," the lawsuit states.

Lilles, a former CW-1 visa worker, also claims that his employer lied that it was in compliance with the legal minimum wage required by the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Labor Certification National Prevailing Wage Center, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Lilles claims he was paid just a little over $7 despite the prevailing wage being $12.

As relief, Lilles wants the court to declare that the defendant failed to comply with the law, regulations, and provisions and certifications with respect to the required minimum wage it was required to pay him since May 9, 2019.

Lilles also wants the court to declare that the defendant is liable for the wages that it should have legally paid him but failed to do so, in an amount to be determined at trial.

Lastly, the plaintiff wants the court to determine that J.C. Enterprises is liable for punitive damages in an amount to be proved at trial, based on its unlawful, willful and egregious conduct in representing to the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Labor Certification National Prevailing Wage Center and USCIS that it was in compliance with payments of the legal minimum wage requirement when it knew it was not paying Lilles the legal minimum wage it was required to pay him.

According to the 22-page lawsuit, Lilles' first cause of action is federal law and federal regulations that require the defendant to pay a defined minimum wage to plaintiff during the entire term of his employment.

"Defendant has failed to abide by the Workforce Act, the regulations adopted thereunder, and the terms and conditions contained in the applications for the hiring of plaintiff by failing to pay plaintiff the minimum wage, which plaintiff is legally entitled to under federal law and regulations during the time plaintiff has been employed," Sirok said.

The second cause of action is that federal law and federal regulations require defendant to pay plaintiff increases in the required minimum wage occurring during the entire term of plaintiff's employment with defendant.

"For the period of time beginning May 9, 2019, and continuing to the date hereof, defendant failed, and continues to fail, to pay plaintiff the appropriate minimum wage to which he is entitled based on the prevailing wage table rate at the beginning of his contracted employment periods and at every time the prevailing wage hourly wage increased during the term of his contracted employment periods," he said.

The plaintiff's third cause of action was that he suffered a legal wrong because of the conduct of the defendant failing to pay him the required minimum hourly rate during the entire term of his employment.

"The defendant has intentionally failed and willfully refused to pay plaintiff the minimum hourly rate legally required to be paid to him pursuant to the provisions of the Workforce Act, the Federal Regulations, and the published and effective prevailing wage tables. As a result, plaintiff has suffered, and continues to suffer, a legal wrong, irreparable harm and economic injury for which defendant is liable," the lawyer said.

The fourth cause of action is that the defendant's actions and conduct was and is deliberate and intentional, entitling plaintiff to punitive damages.

"Defendant intentionally altered the employment term dates for the purpose of attempting to avoid paying plaintiff the minimum wage he was truly legally entitled to be paid. Thereafter, defendant without the knowledge and consent of plaintiff, attached a signature purporting to be that of plaintiffs when in fact plaintiff did not sign the employment contract," he claims.

Lastly, the fifth cause of action was breach of contract and implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing.

Multiple scholarships, grants available for NMC's spring 2023 semester

Northern Marianas College is reminding new and ongoing students that there are numerous sources of financial aid available for NMC's upcoming spring 2023 semester, which begins on Jan. 17, 2023.

The scholarships and grants are as follows:

■ Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA

❑ Application deadline: Dec. 12, 2022

❑ Supporting documents deadline: Feb. 28, 2023

❑ Apply online at www.fafsa.gov

❑ A student who has submitted an application for fall 2022 does not need to submit another application for spring 2023.

■ CNMI Scholarship

❑ Application deadline: Dec. 15, 2022

❑ Supporting documents deadline: Feb. 28, 2023

❑ Apply online at www.cnmischolarship.net

■ Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance

❑ Application and supporting documents deadline: Feb. 28, 2023

❑ Apply online at www.saipanshefa.com

■ Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution Scholarship

❑ Deadline: Jan. 19, 2023

❑ Award is for the 2023-2024 school year

❑ Apply online at www.apiascholars.org

Individuals who need help with their financial aid applications can email NMC's Financial Aid Office at fao@marianas.edu or call 237-6791/2/3/4.

For assistance with CNMI Scholarship, individuals may email awards@cnmischolarship.net or call (670) 664-4750. For assistance with SHEFA, individuals may email saipanshefa@gmail.com or call (670) 233-5995.

For additional information or inquiries, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at (670) 237-6769/70/71/72 or email oar@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

500 SAILS

P.O. BOX 10001 PMB 326
SAIPAN, MP 96950

500 SAILS
REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS
EDA GRANT NO. 07-79-07817
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS MARITIME TRAINING CENTER
500 SAILS-2022/RSQ-002

500 Sails, located in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, is soliciting bids from qualified vendors that are interested in providing professional services for the architectural and engineering design and construction management for the Northern Mariana Islands Maritime Training Center (aka Cultural Maritime Training Center of CMTC).

The EDA funded project proposed is a renovation of a 30,900 sq ft warehouse that is in generally good condition and currently in use as a boatyard and teaching facility, and administrative offices. The renovation does not change the footprint of the warehouse. The renovation includes construction of a classrooms and offices area, roof repairs, replacement of warehouse doors and windows, the selection and installation of air conditioning, an air circulation system, selection and installation of an overhead crane, and the installation of multiple delivery points of compressed air,and electrical outlets within the boatyard/shop floor.

The Scope of Work is available beginning December 2, 2022 at 9:00 am Chamorro Standard Time (ChST) via download or in print at the 500 Sails Boatyard and Administrative office, located in Lower Base, Saipan. Requests may be sent via email to nmimtc@500Sails.org.

A bidder's site walk will be held at the 500 Sails boatyard on December 13, 2022 at 4:00pm ChST.

All questions or inquiries regarding this RSQ are due no later than 9:00 pm, December 16, 2022 by email only. Responses to questions or inquiries will be provided to all bidder's site walk attendees by December 20, 2022.

Sealed proposal for this project shall be submitted with one (1) original and four (4) copies to the 500 Sails Boatyard and Administrative Office, located at in Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 3:00pm, local time, ChST, January 3, 2023 and must be marked **"Proposal - Northern Marianas Maritime Training Center 500 Sails-2022-RSQ-002"**.

Please note that **500 Sails-2022/RSQ-002** differs significantly from **500 Sails-2022/RSQ-001** released earlier.

Electronic submissions may be accepted if approved prior to the submission deadline.

Failure to follow the instructions regarding the submission of RSQ Responses may result in 500 Sails' choice to disqualify such bids.

Pete Perez
Executive Director

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP23-CHCC/FACILITY-002
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JAN. 3rd 2023 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"WATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE HOSPITAL AND HEMODIALYSIS"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB OF THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL. IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA ROTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES (NON-RESTRICTED AREAS)
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-004-23

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for grounds maintenance services of the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona Rota International Airport on the Island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Proposal Package will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building beginning December 02, 2022.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Grounds Maintenance Services (Non-Restricted Areas) of the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona Rota International Airport, Project No-CPA-RFP-004-23". One original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, December 19, 2022, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Proposals received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

There will be a Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference on December 13, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the BTM Rota International Airport. Site Visit will be conducted shortly after the meeting. Only those proposers who attended this meeting will be allowed to submit their proposals.

Written questions and/or clarifications regarding this project will be entertained up till December 14, 2022.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this RFP; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding this project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA, CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Guam LDS Church donates clothing to Chuuk members

Relief Society sisters in the Barrigada Guam Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints recently organized a clothing donation for church members in the islands in Chuuk. Members throughout the Barrigada Guam Stake participated in donating clothes to help these members.

The collected clothing donation, filling 11 boxes, were shipped from the church's Guam Service Center to the church's Chuuk Namoneas District, which has 10 branches. Once the clothing arrived, the district president, Rodolfo Gacayan, had the clothes sorted and divided into 10 boxes, one for each branch.

A district leaders meeting was held at the Mwan branch meetinghouse in Weno, Chuuk on Oct. 8. Branch presidents came from the different branches, some making a 40-minute boat ride, to attend the meeting. As they departed, each took their box with them to distribute among their branch members.

From the Island of Tonowas, branch president HS Nakka expressed his gratitude for the box of clothing for his branch.

Sapuk branch president Smart Katta on the island of Weno said: *"Kinisou chapur ren ei anini ikanai ren ekei pisek sia fokun kinisou ren tong mi pwa non ekeii aninis."*

The island of Romanum's branch president, Siramino Walter, also expressed gratitude for the donation: "[The] Romanum branch, especially the families, are very happy and appreciative of the support and love that was given to us, the members here in the Chuuk district. Thank you so much and God bless you all."

District president Rudolfo Gacayan. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From the island of Uman, branch president Jackson Apichiniko said, *"Kuam Uman Branch epwe apasa an anisikemi meinisin ren amia nisi Uman branch fokun kinisou. Kinisou chapur kot epwe nonom remi meinisin."*

Mwan branch president Tarsi Wainis on the island of Weno shared his thanks: "We're very grateful and appreciative for all that the Guam members donated. We are thankful for the great love and desire of the Barrigada Guam members to help our members here in Chuuk. We send love from the Mwan branch members."

From the island of Udot, branch president Hudson Charles said, *"An* Udot branch *kinisou ngeni Guam Mission, ren watten an aninis ngeni kewe members, non Udot branch. Ika kinisou mei wor napan apan iwe sipwe tungeni kuna sipwe chok epinukunuk pun acit kut epwe pusin niwini ngeni Guam niwini an anisi members seni* Udot branch*, kinisou kinisou kinisou fokun kinisou."* ***(PR)***

Wichap branch president Mark Kunuseni. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Make their holiday a little brighter

Gifts for grandma and grandpa—check. CHenchu'le for the children—check.
Tinsel for the tree—check. Lights for the lawn—check.

Make checking off your list that much merrier with a personal loan* of up to $50,000.

Apply today at bankofguam.com

Bank of Guam 50

Member FDIC

*Subject to Bank of Guam lending criteria. Terms and conditions apply.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P. L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Board of Professional Licensing (BPL) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its quarterly board meeting on ***Wednesday, December 7, 2022, at 8:30a.m.*** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the BPL-**HCPLB Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan.**

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (07/07/2022)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson's Report
VII. Director's Report
- Introduction of New Staff
- 2022 Financial Report
- 2022 Annual Citizen Centric Report
- Update on the Energov Program

VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
A. Governor's Office
B. Legislature
X. Old Business
A. Proposed Regulations for Real Property Appraiser
B. Proposed Local Examination for Real Property Appraiser
XI. New Business
XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
A. New Application
B. Renewal Applications
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
XV. Announcements
A. Next Meeting Date
B. Adjournment of Meeting

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXII, Issue No. 240

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The world needs another Tiananmen Square hero

History will never forget a Chinese man who stood alone to block a line of tanks in Tiananmen Square.

It was June 5, 1989, and the world was watching.

The world is watching again. Stocks have fallen as worries climb over protests in China over harsh COVID-19 lockdowns. Protesters in Shanghai and Beijing are even calling for China's Xi Jinping to step down as president because of it.

The Chinese response? Police have been dispatched to clamp down on the protests.

The People's Daily, the communist party's mouthpiece, quoted Xi saying about lockdowns: "Facts have fully proved that every version of the prevention and control plan has withstood the test of practice."

What about the origin of the COVID-19 virus? That question has never been fully vetted as the world still copes with the pandemic with warnings about a harsh winter ahead for all of us.

China is the world's second-largest economy and Xi's "zero-COVID" policy is rattling economies across the globe because, once again, the lack of transparency and freedom crushes all free market instincts.

"No society can surely be flourishing and happy, of which the greater part of the members are poor and miserable," Adam Smith wrote in the "Wealth of Nations."

President Joe Biden, according to numerous reports, failed to pin Xi down on the origin of the coronavirus and the fentanyl crisis. Both have roots deep in China. Now even Xi's own fellow citizens are voicing their discontent.

We've said it in this space before, but if China wants to belong to the world economy the country must abide by basic human rights. COVID-19 caught fire in Wuhan and the rest of us have been forced to live with the deadly consequences.

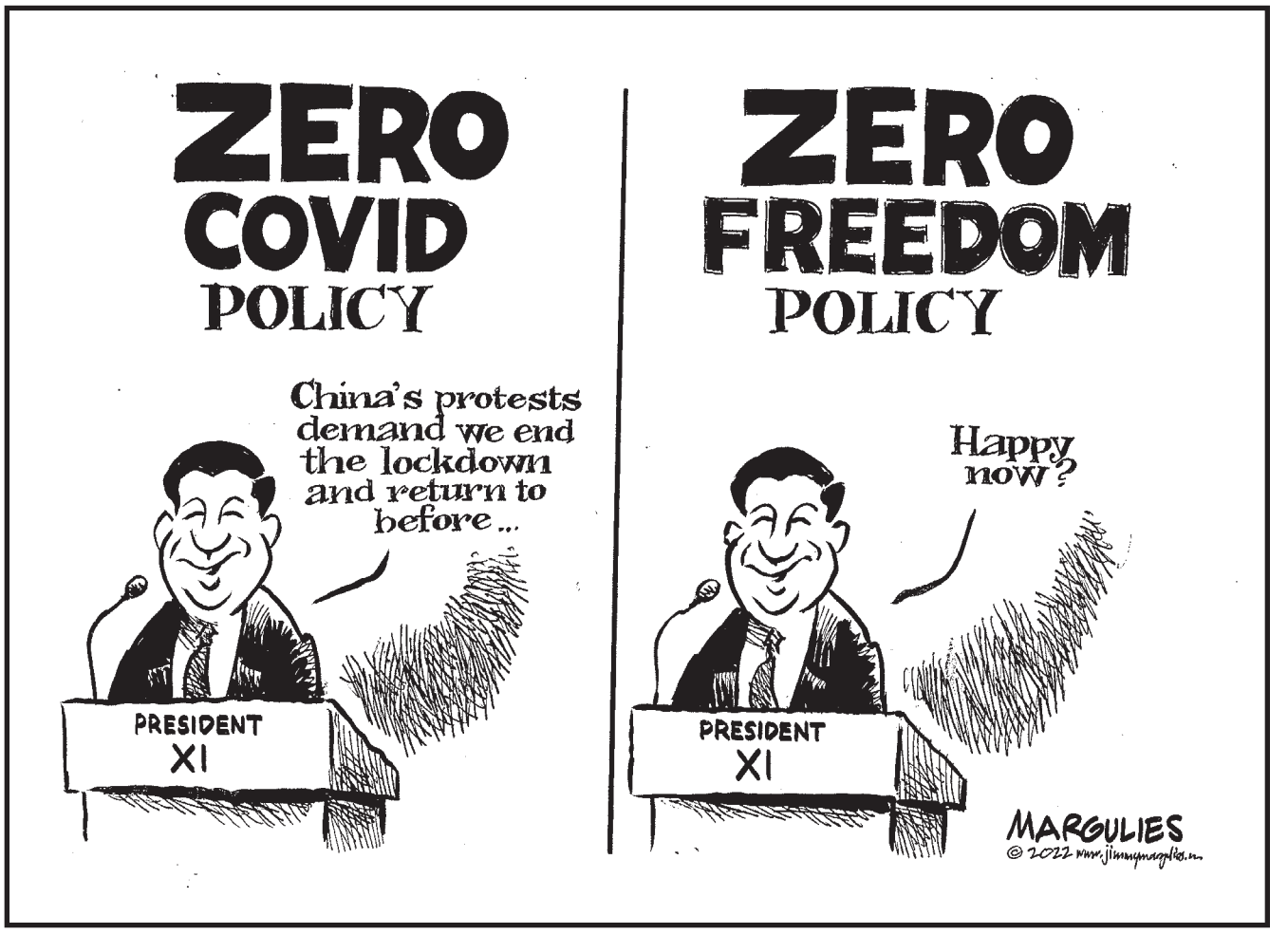
In the U.S., the likes of Dr. Antony Fauci and the CDC have been grilled for stumbles as the pandemic ripped into daily life. We've climbed out, but the virus isn't done with us.

China should allow for peaceful protests and look to loosen the "zero-COVID" policy and announce a scientific examination into the origins of the virus and turn the corner and get ahead of these unsettling few years.

If not, we are doomed to repeat the errors of 2020. Xi was reelected his party's leader with a mandate to keep China strong. He's doing just the opposite. The world—especially Biden—needs to take note and stop caving in.

Just emulate that lone hero of Tiananmen Square.

©2022 Boston Herald



A diabetes breakthrough in search of patients

By LISA JARVIS
Bloomberg Opinion

Lisa Jarvis is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist covering biotech, health care and the pharmaceutical industry. Previously, she was executive editor of* Chemical & Engineering News.

In a first, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved a therapy that slows the onset of Type 1 diabetes. Teplizumab, developed by Provention Bio, typically delays the need for insulin shots, blood-sugar monitoring, and diet control by about two years. For some, the effect lasted years longer.

The treatment could be a way to delay the life-changing regime of managing diabetes, which is often diagnosed in children or adolescence. Unfortunately, there are many hurdles to overcome before the drug can make a real difference. The most immediate and daunting problem: getting the treatment to the right people at the right time.

A drug that can slow the onset of the disease is a gift to people destined to develop Type 1 diabetes, which affects roughly 1-1.5 million Americans. "You don't do anything if you have diabetes without thinking about the diabetes," says Kevan Herold, a professor at Yale School of Medicine who was involved with the clinical studies of teplizumab. "You don't eat, you don't exercise, you don't sleep, you don't go to school [without thinking about it]—it's there all the time."

Type 1 diabetes occurs when the immune system wages war on beta cells, the clusters of insulin-making factories in the pancreas. Eventually, so many of those factories have been depleted that people become reliant on insulin injections to regulate their blood sugar. (By contrast, people with Type 2 diabetes can often still make insulin but can't process it.)

Provention's drug intervenes in that early battle. The antibody, administered as a daily infusion over the course of two weeks, dampens the activity of the immune cells that are causing the damage.

Maximizing that effect will be a huge challenge. For one, insurers will need to get on board. They may balk at a one-time regimen that costs nearly $200,000 yet still isn't a cure.

The other issue is finding patients. To participate in the study that led to the drug's approval, volunteers had to meet a number of criteria: a family member with Type 1 diabetes, at least two markers of the disease, called autoantibodies, and signs of blood sugar dysregulation.

Those criteria describe a small subset of a much larger population of people with Type 1 diabetes. The vast majority, some 85%–90%, don't have a familial link to the disease. Nor is it a routine part of pediatric care to screen for it. And for good reason: the tests can be expensive and unpleasant (as anyone who has been pregnant may remember).

There are two ways to figure out who might benefit from the drug, according to JDRF, a diabetes-focused advocacy group that helped fund the development of tepliziumab through its venture philanthropy arm. The first would be to look for genetic markers linked to the disease in the heel-prick test every baby gets at the hospital. Not everyone who has those markers will go on to develop diabetes, but the screen could flag children who should be more closely monitored during their early life, says JDRF chief executive officer Aaron J. Kowalski.

The second approach is to look for the autoantibodies detectable in blood before symptoms show up. Researchers have found that a person with two or more of these markers along with abnormal blood sugar has a 75% chance of needing to rely on insulin within the next five years—and a nearly 100% chance of it in their lifetime.

But those tests need to become much more user-friendly and affordable, an effort JDRF is funding. It's a scientific challenge more diagnostics companies should tackle.

If the right patients can be more readily identified—and that's still a big if—the other question is whether the benefits of the drug can be strengthened. Teplizumab is currently approved as a one-time regimen. But doctors want to know if Type 1 diabetes could be further delayed if, for example, the treatment was administered repeatedly—and if so, how often? And could it help people newly diagnosed, who might still have some functioning beta cells to preserve?

Instead of a two-year delay, "wouldn't it be nice if it was 8-10 years? Or 10-20 years? Or obliterated altogether?" says Bruce Perkins, director of the Sinai Centre for Diabetes, at Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital. "This is just the starting point, but it gives us so much hope."

That hope took decades to materialize. The treatment traded hands among biotech and pharma companies as it trudged through clinical studies. It took several champions, and investment from JDRF's venture philanthropy group, to finally heave the drug over the finish line.

It's rare to land on treatments that can so clearly delay the course of a disease—not to mention ones that whisper of putting off the disease for long enough they start to look like prevention. Getting this therapy to the people who need it shouldn't also be a years-long slog.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Putin will carpet-bomb Ukraine unless the West acts

By JAMES STAVRIDIS
Bloomberg Opinion

James Stavridis is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist. A retired U.S. Navy admiral, former supreme allied commander of NATO, and dean emeritus of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, he is vice chairman of global affairs at the Carlyle Group. He is the author most recently of* To Risk It All: Nine Conflicts and the Crucible of Decision.

The strategically vital city of Kherson is back in the hands of Ukrainians, albeit under threat of Russian shelling and attacks on its electricity supply. But as combatants on both sides of an increasingly static firing line prepare for winter war, there are effectively two separate conflicts emerging: one on the land, the other in the air. What can the West do to help Ukraine meet the immediate tactical challenges, and ultimately seize the longer-term advantage?

On land, the arrival of a wet, rainy fall and a harsh winter will lead to a decrease in operations. Both Russia and Ukraine need to rest and reinforce their troops, as well as repair equipment. A return to full-blown combat operations isn't likely until late winter when the ground freezes, presenting a better opportunity for the heaviest equipment.

Russia will particularly struggle to fill the holes in its forward combat operations, thanks to low motivation and a failing draft. As 200,000 to 300,000 young men—under threat of conscription—have departed Russia for sanctuary in bordering nations, Russian president Vladimir Putin has resorted to conscripting criminals, the homeless and drunks rounded up in bars. Ukraine faces challenges too, but not of motivation—its citizens, fighting an existential war, are mighty motivated. The Ukrainian challenge stems from having a far smaller population—only about a third of Russia's.

Ukraine will also have a major advantage in supplies. The West will continue to provide not only the high-tech weapons that receive most of the publicity but also the bread and butter of infantry operations: guns, mortars, ammunition, fuel, trucks, night-vision devices, cold weather gear, portable stoves, point-to-point communications equipment. In contrast, Russian conscripts have been told to find their own sleeping bags and improvise bandages from tampons.

But the challenge in the land war will be a classic military fact of the battlefield: Advantage in ground war accrues to the defensive side. Military theory says you need a 3:1 advantage on offense to conquer a well-dug in defense. Ironically, as the Ukrainians succeed in taking back big chunks of previously conquered territory, the Russian defensive positions compress and become harder to overrun. But given Ukrainian advantages in materiel and motivation, I'd rather have their hand of cards.

So the land war advantage goes to the Ukrainians, although the fighting will be hard. But what about the other war, the one in the sky?

In the air war over Ukraine, the advantage accrues to the Russians. First and foremost, they have a vastly larger air force, one that has seen significant combat experience in Syria. Russian air forces routinely pounded Syrian cities into dust, dropping indiscriminate "dumb bombs" by the thousands, seeking to simply destroy any support for the rebels fighting Putin's ally Bashar al-Assad.

Sadly, this carpet bombing proved very effective, and Putin seems inclined to try and copy it in Ukraine. The new general appointed to oversee the Ukraine war is the leader of Russia's air force, a man known for his Syrian atrocities. The strategy is simple: Grind down the Ukrainian electric grid and water distribution system to break the public's morale by literally freezing them out of their increasingly uninhabitable homes.

While Putin's stocks of precision-guided missiles are rapidly depleting (witness his turning to Iran for high-tech weapons), he still has plenty of dumb bombs, stockpiled for decades going back to the Cold War. Because he doesn't care about collateral damage or civilian deaths, he will try to kill as many as he can from the skies.

As the reality of his approach sinks in, the West must increase its support to Ukrainian air-defense efforts. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, of course, desires a NATO no-fly zone above all else. He often implores the West to "close the skies" of his nation. More likely, he will receive increased numbers of high-end air-to-surface missiles systems like the superb Iron Dome (developed jointly by the U.S. and Israel), NATO Patriot batteries (that are also going along the Polish border), and possibly tactical fighters.

Leaders in NATO capitals are also revisiting an idea that was discarded in the early days of the war: providing either MiG-29 Soviet-era fighters (the Poles have offered to transfer them to the Ukrainians) or even U.S. surplus F-16s, a simple-to-learn multi-role fighter. Without such measures, the air war will continue to go in favor of Putin.

With a land war favoring Ukraine and a brutal air war favoring Russia, the West's best option will be to significantly increase its assistance to Ukraine on the air war side of the conflict. Giving the Ukrainians more tools to close their own skies may be the key to forcing the Russians to ultimately negotiate, perhaps as soon as early spring, given the success Zelenskyy and his military have achieved on the ground.

Sleep is getting more respect—as a way to increase productivity. We need a better mindset

By JENNIFER MUNDT
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Sleep is finally having its moment. I'm a sleep researcher and clinician, and it's exhilarating to see broader recognition that sleep is important, yet I am often dismayed about the framing of why sleep is valuable. Messages equating sleep with laziness have long been woven into our cultural consciousness, with aphorisms such as "I'll sleep when I'm dead" and "the early bird gets the worm" reflecting our fears that sleep is a hindrance to success and accomplishments.

We find inspiration in legends of historical figures such as Leonardo da Vinci whose fantastic achievements supposedly required only a modicum of sleep. These messages characterize sleep as an impediment to productivity; it is encouraging that we are increasingly turning away from that mindset and recognizing the importance of sleep. However, in our emerging embrace of sleep, the end goal often remains productivity, and the shift in perspective is only that sleep is now seen as a facilitator of productivity rather than an impediment.

Sleep does often increase productivity as a byproduct of its many benefits including increased energy, focus and mental processing speed. However, we do ourselves a disservice to focus too heavily on productivity—especially as it is often narrowly defined by career and financial success—as reasons for prioritizing sleep.

In a culture that assigns positive moral value to productivity, linking sleep with productivity means that sleep is no longer morally neutral; sleep is good only so long as it serves the purpose of increasing productivity. Linking sleep and productivity is harmful because it overshadows the bevy of other reasons to prioritize sleep as an essential component of health. It also stigmatizes groups that are affected by sleep disparities and certain chronic sleep disorders.

We now know that sleep is connected with every aspect of our health including our cardiovascular health, pain, mood and immune system. Sleep is a pillar of health but has long been neglected in comparison to its more popular cousins—diet and exercise.

To bring awareness to this issue, the American Academy of Sleep Medicine published a position statement last year with the straightforward title "Sleep is essential to health." The American Heart Association recently echoed this sentiment, adding sleep to its list of essentials for heart health. The cover of the Sept. 24 issue of The Lancet also highlights the overlooked importance of sleep.

When sleep is as fundamental to survival as water or air, it is strange to see sleep promoted in some circles as a tool for enhancing performance in the workplace. If we see sleep as something to be hacked and optimized to improve performance, sleep can so easily become just one more thing we must perform correctly, something at which we can either excel or fail. Moreover, the onus tends to fall on the individual to have adequate time and resources to implement the proper techniques and buy the right products.

Sleep is also affected by larger societal factors. As we shift toward recognizing the importance of sleep, we must also confront the reality of systemic factors, such as racism, discrimination and neighborhood segregation, that create disparities in sleep. Improving sleep on a large scale will not be achieved merely by convincing individuals to improve their habits or adopt technologies that promise to optimize slumber. As we work to improve sleep for all, we must promote equity by addressing systemic factors that stand in the way of sleep for so many people.

Framing sleep as a means to increase productivity also ignores the reality of chronic sleep disorders that keep many people from conforming to the narrow cultural definition of an acceptable sleep-wake pattern. A CEO or a professional athlete who sleeps 10 hours every night and naps before important events in order to achieve peak performance is lauded, while people with hypersomnia disorders who sleep the same amount continue to face stigma and are maligned as lazy.

The message is clear: You are allowed to sleep as long as there is a payoff in terms of your performance and productivity. This stigmatizing message is also familiar to night owls whose late-night productivity is overshadowed by their perceived morning laziness. If your circadian rhythm is not aligned with standard business hours, you run the risk of being perceived as unresponsive, unreliable and unproductive.

We still have a long way to go in improving our collective relationship with sleep. To fully appreciate the benefits of sleep, we must break away from the view that it is either lazy (bad) or productive (good). Sleep is so much more than a means to increase productivity, and we all deserve to sleep in the way that serves our lives in all their fullness—our health, relationships and simply our day-to-day enjoyment of life.

The purpose of sleep is not to hustle faster and grind harder during your waking hours. You can simply sleep because your body needs it, and your life will be better in innumerable ways for it.

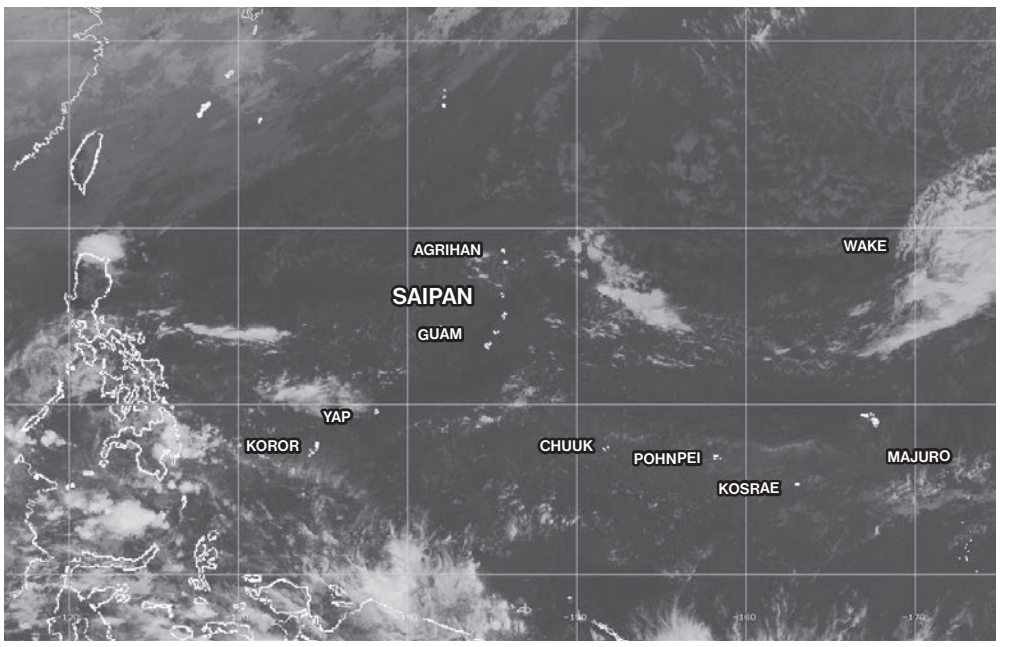
Dr. Jennifer Mundt is director of the Behavioral Sleep Medicine Lab and an assistant professor of neurology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny
85° 79°	86° 79°	86° 79°	85° 79°	85° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:36 AM, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas Waters. The buoys reveal combined seas of 6 to 9 feet, which are composed mainly of large northeast swell and a medium north swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Palau	Scattered Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Yap	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	88° / 77°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Majuro	Isolated Thunderstorms	84° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	67° / 56°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	67° / 56°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	68° / 62°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	82° / 70°
London	Mostly Cloudy	46° / 39°
Los Angeles	Cloudy	59° / 52°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	89° / 79°
Melbourne	Sunny	72° / 55°
Miami	Showers	81° / 74°
New York	Partly Cloudy	44° / 31°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	51° / 37°
Paris	Cloudy	41° / 36°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	46° / 35°
Rome	Showers	58° / 52°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	58° / 39°
San Francisco	Rain/Wind	51° / 37°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	35° / 25°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	55° / 40°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	45° / 25°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:27 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM
Sunday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM
Monday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM
Tuesday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:17 AM	1:35 PM
Saturday	-	1:17 AM	2:20 PM
Sunday	-	2:14 AM	3:01 PM
Monday	-	3:09 AM	3:40 PM
Tuesday	-	4:01 AM	4:18 PM

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
2:05 AM	High Tide	1.25
8:44 AM	Low Tide	0.16
3:45 PM	High Tide	1.80
10:29 PM	Low Tide	0.51

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	7:45AM	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	8:00PM	9:50PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau
OZ624/701	3:40PM	10:35AM+1	3,6 via Incheon

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

OZ624	3:40PM	7:40PM	3, 6
TW308	4:30PM	8:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:46AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	12:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA189/174	12:40AM	8:46AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55PM	8:46AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:40PM	8:46AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
OZ704/623	11:50PM	2:40PM+1	2, 5 via Incheon

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ623	9:00AM	2:40PM	3, 6
TW307	10:00AM	3:30PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:00 A.M.	7:15 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
9:50 A.M.	10:05 A.M.	
4:00 P.M.	4:15 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:35 A.M.	7:50 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
10:25 A.M.	10:40 A.M.	
4:35 P.M.	4:50 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:10 A.M.	8:40 A.M.	
1:45 P.M.	2:15 P.M.	

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	
2:35 P.M.	3:05 P.M.	

SAIPAN TO GUAM

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:10 A.M.	12:00 P.M.	
5:15 P.M.	6:05 P.M.	

GUAM TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
12:30 P.M.	1:20 P.M.	
6:40 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

FROM RIDGE TO REEF

A Collection of Articles Written by the 2022 DCRM Summer Interns

Issue No. 6 of 6

THE OPEN SEA: THE BLUE, THE FRESH... THE MARINE DEBRIS?

DEANA KAPILEO MARIANA ISLANDS NATURE ALLIANCE

When you think of the ocean, you might think of blue water, coral reefs, or maybe some of the amazing organisms that inhabit it. But do you know what else fills our ocean? Marine debris.

Marine debris is one of the biggest problems in our oceans and waterways, but it also happens to be one of the most solvable (Sheavly and Register, 2007). As a grantee of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Marine Debris Grant, the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance (MINA) was tasked with removing 70,000 pounds of marine debris from the Saipan and Tinian lagoons, in an effort to minimize the impacts it poses on our coral reefs and coastal habitats. This summer, I had the opportunity to work on this project as a DCRM Summer Intern under MINA.

I was assigned to create various marine debris maps for multiple locations within the Saipan Lagoon in order to collect data on the types of marine debris found. I created the maps using QGIS, an open-source geographic information system. Making the maps were simple once I learned the basics of the program. First, you open a base map and locate your site. Second, trace the shape of the area you will assess. Third, lay a grid consisting of 50m x 50m squares over your chosen site.

Lastly, label your grid points. To utilize your newly created map, extract and upload your labeled grid points onto a GPS.

Although I was able to create the maps, they did not come without their challenges. My partner, Subin Cho, and I realized our uploaded points were in the incorrect format, preventing us from laying our grid squares to collect data.

After many attempts, we were able to correct the format. The correction allowed us to start on our marine debris project. We made our grid squares over our chosen area and searched for marine debris in the lagoon using the uploaded points on the GPS on our new map. My partner and I are excited to get marine debris out of our lagoons!

Sheavly, S. B., & Register, K. M. (2007, November 28). *Marine Debris & Plastics: Environmental concerns, sources, impacts and solutions - journal of polymers and the environment.* SpringerLink. Retrieved August 11, 2022, from https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10924-007-0074-3#citeas

SHORELINE INVESTIGATION

CATHERINE CALMA DCRM SHORELINE MONITORING

Have you ever wondered why your favorite beaches seem to be sinking? Is it because Saipan is slowly sinking? Or is it due to some other factor? Well, the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) has been measuring the shorelines in the CNMI to see which areas are eroding (losing sand), accreting (gaining sand) or exhibiting stability.

This summer, I was given an amazing opportunity to intern for DCRM under the Shoreline Monitoring Program, led by Mary Fem Urena, Coastal Planner. My partners and I were assigned to monitor the western beaches of Saipan using the Berger surveying method. Once we gathered data from monitoring the beaches, we paired it to the data collected by previous interns, to see whether the beach has eroded, accreted, or stayed the same over time. This data helps us identify and track the most unstable and vulnerable areas to inform planning and management.

Since I became a Shoreline Monitoring Intern, I learned that beaches lose and gain sand, and that sand can move from one location to another. This movement of sand impacts water sports businesses and hotel operators due to the limited coastline space.

Erosion from coastal development and global beach retreat caused by effects of sea level rise as well as storm intensity may be why some beaches are observed to be eroding. (Starmer, 2009)

Overall, my time as an intern at DCRM was an insightful experience. I am more aware of the beach profile. If I revisit the same place, I would be able to compare it to my previous visit and see if it has lost or gained sand. In addition, you can help take care of the beaches by picking up trash, using reusable products, or volunteering during beach cleanups.

Starmer, John, and C. N. M. I. Saipan. "*Northern Mariana Islands Needs Assessment for the Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System.*" Pacific Marine Resources Institute, Saipan, CNMI (2009) pmri_pacioos_2009-libre.pdf (d1wqtxts1xzle7.cloudfront.net)

CHCC strengthens local capacity on reproductive health

Medical providers, nurses, and clinic support staff on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota recently completed training on Family Planning and Reproductive Health provided through a partnership of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Reproductive Health National Training Center.

The event is part of an ongoing focus of CHCC for improving the quality of and expanding access to reproductive healthcare and family planning services in CNMI communities.

The training was held from Oct. 29 through Nov. 4, 2022, at the Commonwealth Health Center on Navy Hill on Saipan, Tinian Health Center, and Rota Health Center. A total of 42 healthcare professionals attended the training.

CHCC offers family planning services that assist in preventing or achieving pregnancy. These services are available for women, men, and adolescents, with priority given to persons from low-income families. The services are voluntary, confidential, and provided regardless of one's ability to pay.

The CHCC Family Planning program provides a broad range of acceptable and effective family planning methods and services, including:

■ contraceptive education, counseling, and methods (includes hormonal methods; fertility awareness based methods; barrier methods; abstinence);

■ services centered around pre-conception health and achieving pregnancy (includes infertility services; STI prevention, education, screening, and treatment; HIV testing and referral; and screening for substance use disorders and referrals); and

■ pregnancy diagnosis and counseling.

These services are available at the CHCC Women's Clinic, Tinian Health Center, Rota Health Center and through Mobile Clinic outreach. ***(CHCC)***

CHCC

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. certified nurse midwives, OB/GYN, and nurse practitioners on Saipan pose with trainers from the Reproductive Health National Training Center.

Join the Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count

Join us for the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count! This event is free and open to the public. All skill levels and ages are invited to participate. Started in 1900 by the National Audubon Society, the Christmas Bird Count is the world's longest-running citizen science project. The CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife has organized local counts for over 25 years, typically tallying thousands of birds and 40-plus species.

Volunteers for the Saipan Count will meet at 6am at American Memorial Park to divide into teams for roadside and walking surveys. Teams will spread out to cover the island, finding and recording as many birds and bird species as possible. Bring binoculars if you have them, but it's okay if you don't. Participants should be sure to wear sun protection, bring water and snacks.

The Rota Count will also happen Dec. 28 and volunteers will meet at 6am at Tweksberry Park. The Tinian Count will happen Dec. 19 and volunteers will meet at 6am at Jones Park.

For more information, contact Emilie Kohler, 664-6032 or kohler.dfw@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

File photo shows a Mariana crow. CREATIVE COMMONS

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

MVA IS HIRING!!!

JVA #	POSITION	LOCATION	CLOSING DATE
JVA 23-001	MANAGING DIRECTOR	SAIPAN	UNTIL FILLED
JVA 22-013	STATISTICS SPECIALIST I	SAIPAN	UNTIL FILLED
JVA 22-012	CHIEF ACCOUNTANT	SAIPAN	UNTIL FILLED
JVA 22-011	ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES MANAGER	SAIPAN	UNTIL FILLED

YOU MAY DOWNLOAD THE EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION FORM AND OTHER INFORMATION AT HTTPS://WWW.MYMARIANAS.COM/ANNOUNCEMENTS/.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB23-CHCC/P&S-003

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: DEC. 16, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"SALE OF CHCC USED VEHICLES"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO E TER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS TO ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950 | Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
Tel. No. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of December 02, 2022

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. U.S.A. Fanter Corporation, Ltd.	08/05/2022 CRM-MS2022-0003	Cement Batching Plant & Hollow Block Facility	Kannat Tabla, Saipan	Major Siting	Certified Complete 12/01/2022
2. Department of Public Works (DPW)	09/21/2022 CRM-MS2022-0001	Route 33 Beach Road Improvement Phase III & IV	Beach Road Oleai - Garapan, Saipan	Major Siting	Public Hearing 12/01/2022
3.Saipan Surf Company	11/01/2022 CRM-MD2022-0002	Boogie Down Surf Competition	Obyan Beach, Saipan	Shoreline, Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 11/18/2022
4. Joaquina Agulto	11/14/2022 APC2022-0002	Construction of a Single Story, 2-Bedroom Residential House	Chalan Kanoa, Saipan	Wetlands & Mangroves	On Hold*
5.Department of Public Works (DPW)	11/17/2022 CRM-MS2022-0002	Kagman Transfer Station Facility	Kagman, Saipan	Major Siting	Application Review
6.J.C.A, Inc. dba McDonald's Of Saipan	11/30/2022 APC2022-0003	Construction of 3 Unit Warehouse Facility	San Jose, Saipan	Wetlands & Mangroves	Under Review*
7.Office of Planning & Development (OPD) – Office of the Governor	11/30/2022 CRM-MD2022-0003	Garapan Revitalization Project	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

2022 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Public is invited to Family Fun Day on Dec. 3 at Tanapag Youth Center

By CLEO NENING
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Cleo Nening is a programs coordinator at the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.

Every December, the United Nations observes and celebrates the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, or IDPWD. The purpose of IDPWD is to increase awareness of disability issues and gather support for the rights, dignity, and general welfare of people with disabilities. It also aims to raise awareness of the benefits that can be obtained through including people with disabilities in all facets of political, social, economic, and cultural life.

The Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc. is the state designated organization that protects the civil, legal, and human rights of individuals with disabilities in the CNMI. Ensuring that people with disabilities are able to exercise their rights, access public services, and are included in essential decision-making should be a priority in order to promote an accessible and inclusive environment on our islands.

This year's global theme is "Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fueling an accessible and equitable world." This calls for us to think outside of the box on how we utilize innovation to break through the many barriers people with disabilities face, such as the stigma, prejudice, and discrimination. Understanding that people with disabilities are people first, perhaps we will be able to think about their abilities, strengths, and skills in order to celebrate them for who they are.

NMPASI and the CNMI Disability Network Partners invite you to join us for the celebration of the IDPWD with a Family Fun Day on Saturday, Dec. 3 from 9am to 12pm at the Tanapag Youth Center. You will be able to browse through our exhibit booths, engage in various fun activities, and get a chance to win cool prizes in celebration of the 2022 IDPWD. Join us and be part of the transformative solutions that promote an inclusive and accessible CNMI!

For more information on IDPWD and protection of the rights of individuals with disabilities, contact NMPASI at our office numbers (670) 235-7273/4 (Saipan), text message (670) 287-0652, (670) 287-9937 (Tinian), (670) 287-9943 (Rota) or visit our website at www.nmpasi.org.

Boost Program re-energized four hundred thirty one Businesses across CNMI.

The Boost Program launched by the CNMI Government injected new life to distressed Small Businesses, Non-Profits, Fishers, Farmers, and Ranchers throughout the islands. A total of $10.585 Million were awarded to a total of 431 awardees out of 4,227 applications in various business categories.

The number of beneficiaries and categories of businesses impacted by the BOOST Program:

Total Numer of Applications
4,227

Fisher Farmer Rancher Program

Saipan	1761
Tinian	411
Rota	258

Non-Profits

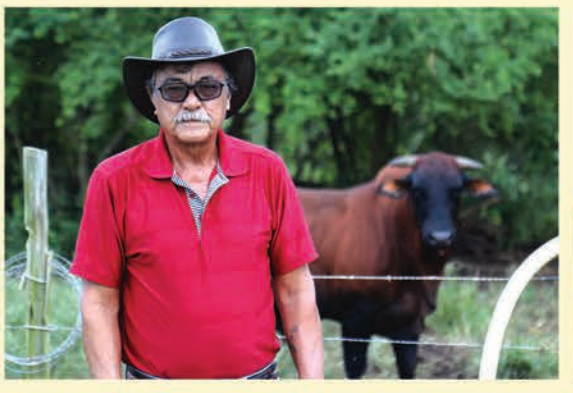
Saipan	62
Tinian	4
Rota	2

Small Businesses

Saipan	1425
Tinian	204
Rota	100

Businesses Awarded	Number	Amount
Small Business	241	$10,490,000.00
Fisher Farmer Rancher Program	190	$95,000.00
TOTAL	431	$10,585.000.00

Auto Repair • Auto Rental • Home Rental • B & B
Construction • Boat Charter • Restaurants
Bakeries • Cafés • Clothing stores • Hotels
Apartment Rentals • Wholesales



BOOST - Creating a robust and more diversified CNMI economy.

Business

Christmas performances every Friday at Hyatt

The Christmas season is here and every Friday at 5:30pm for the month of December, Hyatt Regency Saipan's lobby will turn into a stage to showcase local talents from different schools in Saipan and bring in the yuletide cheer to in-house guests and the community.

Three groups from Saipan International School are first on deck to perform today. They are the SIS Ensemble, SIS Elementary School Girls dance group, and siblings Jesse and Soledad Sablan who will serenade the crowd with their ukulele playing.

The SIS Ensemble members are composed of high school students devoted to playing enchanting music using woodwind instruments. These children have mastered woodwind instruments such as the flute and clarinet.

The SIS elementary school girls dance group is composed of students from second grade to fifth grade. According to teacher Pamela Walsh, these children are bursting with creativity in the performing arts. "They are excited to perform!"

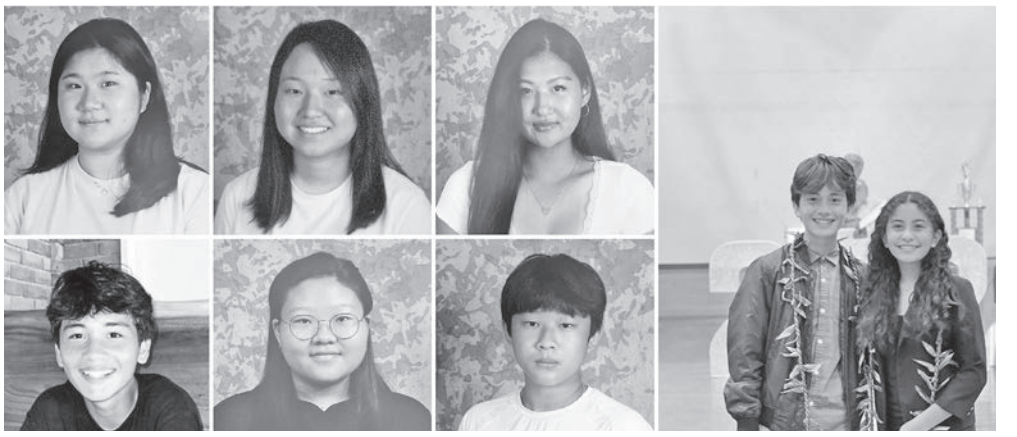
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SIS Elementary School Girls dance group, and siblings Jesse and Soledad Sablan will perform today at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's lobby to usher in the holiday season at the Garapan landmark.

SIS senior Jesse Sablan and sophomore Soledad Sablan treat playing the ukulele together as their bonding time. "We have been playing together before we did division. We hope that our music will entertain people's music taste buds," Jesse said.

"I first got the chance to teach ukulele in the10th grade during the COVID-19 pandemic and I entrusted the duties upon my sister to be my co-teacher. Together, we taught close to a dozen children for nearly five months," Jesse added

Everyone is invited as this is open to the public. For more information, call (670) 234-1234. Hyatt Regency Saipan is the first international hotel in the CNMI and is celebrating their 42nd year anniversary in the CNMI. ***(PR)***



Higher food prices worsen hunger crisis this holiday season

WASHINGTON (AP)—Staffers at Bread for the City, a venerable charity in the nation's capital, thought they were prepared for this year's annual pre-Thanksgiving Holiday Helpers food giveaway. The pandemic had faded, but inflation was high, so they budgeted to give out 12,000 meals, 20% higher than normal pre-pandemic levels.

But they were quickly overwhelmed, with long lines of clients waiting hours to receive a free turkey and a $50 debit card for groceries. They were forced to shut down three days early after helping 16,000 people, many more than anticipated.

"We don't want to retraumatize our community by having them wait outside four hours for a turkey," said Ashley Domm, the charity's chief development officer. "We are not set up to have hundreds of people lined up on a city street."

Bread for the City's experience reflects a larger dynamic playing out across the country. What many Americans hoped would be the first normal holiday season in three years has instead been thrown into a heightened hunger crisis once again, with Christmas on the horizon.

A September report by the Urban Institute estimated that about 1 in 5 adults experienced household food insecurity last summer, about the same as during the first year of the pandemic but a sharp increase from the spring of 2021. Black and Hispanic adults reported higher rates of food insecurity than their white counterparts, according to the report.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES (NON-RESTRICTED AREAS)
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-003-23

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for grounds maintenance services of the Tinian International Airport on the Island of Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Proposal Package will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building beginning December 02, 2022.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Grounds Maintenance Services (Non-Restricted Areas) of the Tinian International Airport, Project No-CPA-RFP-003-23". One original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, December 19, 2022, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Proposals received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

There will be a Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference on December 12, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the CPA Conference Room of the Tinian International Airport. Site Visit will be conducted shortly after the meeting. Only those proposers who attended this meeting will be allowed to submit their proposals.

Written questions and/or clarifications regarding this project will be entertained up till December 13, 2022.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this RFP; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding this project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA, CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
AIRCRAFT PARKING APRON REHABILITATION
AIP 3-69-0003-34/XX

The Commonwealth Ports Authority's (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA hereby seeks the services of qualified consulting firms to provide Construction Management Services for the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport Aircraft Parking Apron Rehabilitation Project, AIP 3-69-0003-34/XX.

The project is being funded by U.S. Federal Aviation Administration in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater at wprater@cnmiports.com or Ms. Sheri Llagas at receptionist@cnmiports.com.

Questions regarding this request for qualification statements must be submitted in writing to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via email to wprater@cnmiports.com or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office by no later than 5:00 p.m. CHST, local time, Friday, December 16, 2022.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m. CHST, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2022**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: November 22, 2022

Amazon says it had its biggest Thanksgiving shopping weekend

NEW YORK (AP)—Amazon said Wednesday it had its biggest ever Thanksgiving holiday shopping weekend, aided by a record number of consumers looking for deals online amid high inflation.

The e-commerce company does not typically share how much it earns during its sales events and did not disclose its overall revenue from the weekend. It said in a news release independent businesses that sell on its site generated more than $1 billion in sales.

A record 196.7 million people shopped in stores and online during the five-day shopping period that stretched from Thanksgiving to Cyber Monday, 17 million more compared to last year, according to the National Retail Federation, a trade group. It said consumers also spent an average of $325 during the weekend on holiday-related purchases, up from $301 last year.

Though higher prices on products might contribute to some of the boost, NRF and other retail tracking groups have said higher demand is also driving the growth. Adobe Analytics, which tracks transactions at over 85 of the top 100 U.S. online stores, said consumers spent $35.27 billion during the holiday weekend, up 4% compared to last year.

Higher demand could signal that budget-conscious shoppers are hungry for deals. As spending has gone up, more consumers have also been dipping into their savings, purchasing items on credit cards and using "buy now, pay later" services that lack interest charges but carry late fees.

Nation

Abortion rights groups look to next fights after 2022 wins

CHICAGO (AP)—Emboldened by the results of November's midterms, abortion rights supporters say they are preparing for even bigger fights in state legislatures and pivotal elections to come, including 2024 races for Congress and president.

Victories for abortion rights ballot measures and candidates who support abortion provided a roadmap for how to win future campaigns, Democrats and leaders of several organizations say. Mobilization efforts brought together women of different races, ages and ideologies who disagreed with the U.S. Supreme Court's decision this summer to eliminate the constitutional right to abortion, forming more diverse and larger coalitions.

The election also changed the way people talk about abortion, they say. Long seen as a polarizing issue Democrats were advised to pivot away from, it's now considered a fundamental topic that must be addressed — and one that will help them win.

"We think, based on the enthusiasm and what we saw on our exit polling and in the election results, that this is an enduring issue," said Mini Timmaraju, president of NARAL Pro-Choice America. The group, along with Planned Parenthood Action Fund, and EMILY's List, committed $150 million to the 2022 election.

AP

A woman supporting abortion-rights holds a sign outside the South Carolina Statehouse on July 7, 2022, in Columbia, S.C. Emboldened by the results of November's midterms, abortion rights supporters say they are preparing for even bigger fights in state legislatures and pivotal elections to come.

"We got very, very far. But we could do a lot more and we'll have to build toward that for 2024," she said.

Heading into the November election, skeptics — including some within the Democratic Party — believed the Supreme Court's June ruling overturning Roe v. Wade had faded as a motivator for voters, overtaken by concerns about inflation, crime or President Joe Biden's unpopularity.

But in the first nationwide election since the ruling, voters protected abortion rights via ballot measures in five states. Democrats performed better than anticipated, keeping control of the Senate and winning races for governor and other top statewide offices, and among the biggest winners were Democratic candidates who made preserving abortion rights a centerpiece of their campaigns.

VoteCast, a broad survey of the midterm electorate, found 7 in 10 voters said the high court's ruling on abortion rights was an important factor in their midterm decisions. VoteCast also showed the decision was broadly unpopular. About 6 in 10 say they are angry or dissatisfied by it. And roughly 6 in 10 say they favor a law guaranteeing access to legal abortion nationwide.

"The election showed how motivating this is for people and I don't think that is going away any time soon," Jen Klein, the Biden administration's Gender Policy Council director, said of abortion rights.

A key takeaway for supporters of abortion rights was that voters care about, and vote based on, more than a single issue. And for many women, reproductive rights is an economic issue, activists said.

House Democrats, who lost the majority but held more seats than expected to give the GOP a narrow advantage, mentioned abortion in 51% of the TV and radio ads the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee ran in its most competitive districts, according to a post-election DCCC memo. The economy, extremism and the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol also were mentioned, though less often, in DCCC ads.

"There were a lot of skeptics, a lot of pundits saying we're going to lose. They said abortion was polarizing, don't talk about it, it's not going to mobilize women," recalled Amanda Brown Lierman, executive director of Supermajority, a multiracial, progressive organization formed after Donald Trump's 2016 election to organize women and turn out the vote. "They could not have been more wrong. You now have an electorate that feels powerful."

Tough Oregon gun law faces legal challenge, could be delayed

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Midterm voters in Oregon narrowly passed one of the toughest gun control laws in the nation, buoying the hopes of gun control supporters, but the new permit-to-purchase mandate and ban on high-capacity magazines now faces a lawsuit that could put it on ice just days before it's set to take effect.

A federal judge in Portland will hear oral arguments Friday on whether Measure 114, which is scheduled to go into law Dec. 8, violates Americans' constitutionally protected right to bear arms. Depending on the outcome, the groundbreaking law could be delayed for months or longer as it works its way through the courts, legal experts said.

The Oregon ballot measure is part of a national trend of gun policy being decided by voters because "significant reform is stalled and that has put all the battles over gun control and gun safety at the state level," said Adam Winkler, a constitutional law professor and expert in gun policy at the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law.

"Ballot measures are one way for people to seize the reins of policy-making. People can act for themselves to change the law and on an issue like gun safety there is a really growing and active gun safety movement in America," he said. "That's not something we probably would have said 20 years ago."

Measure 114, which passed by a slim majority in November, was born out of concern about the 2018 mass shooting in Parkland, Florida and gained public momentum last spring following massacres at a grocery store in Buffalo, N.Y. and at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, said Mark Knutson, chairman of the interfaith Lift Every Voice Oregon campaign and pastor at Portland's Augustana Lutheran Church.

"The arc of the moral universe is bending towards justice, and justice today is going to be ending gun violence in this country," he said. "That's why I trust this process will work ... and a year and a half, two years from now, it'll be 70% of the population saying this was the right thing to do — not the 51% that passed it."

The biggest legal flash point is a ban on magazines over 10 rounds unless they are owned by law enforcement or a military member or were owned before the measure's passage. Those who already own high-capacity magazines can only possess them in their homes or use them at a firing range, in shooting competitions or for hunting as allowed by state law after the measure takes effect.

The law also requires gun buyers to obtain a permit to purchase a new gun. Permit applicants must take a state-approved, hands-on gun safety training course with live or dry rounds, submit a photo ID and undergo fingerprinting and a criminal background check. The state will keep a list of permit-holders that's exempt from public disclosure; the $65 permits will be good for five years and can be used to buy multiple guns in that five-year period with a fresh background check.

The lawsuit filed by the Oregon Firearms Federation, a local sheriff and a gun store owner asks the court to declare the law unconstitutional and issue an injunction to prevent it from going into effect next week. Alternatively, the plaintiffs seek a partial order on the high-capacity magazine ban.

John Kaempf, attorney for the plaintiffs, declined to comment before Friday's hearing.

His filing cites a U.S. Supreme Court ruling in June which struck down a New York law that placed limits on carrying guns outside the home. That 6-3 ruling indicated a shift in the way the nation's high court will evaluate Second Amendment infringement claims and resulted in the court sending a similar ban on high-capacity magazines in California back to a lower court for review.

Biden hosts Macron amid friction over US climate law

WASHINGTON (AP)—Presidents Joe Biden and Emmanuel Macron are celebrating the longstanding U.S.-French relationship — but these are friends with differences. The French president is using his visit to Washington to sharply criticize aspects of the U.S. president's signature climate law as a bad deal for Europe.

Biden is set to honor Macron with the first state dinner of his presidency on Thursday evening. First, the two leaders will sit down in the Oval Office for morning talks that officials from both sides said were expected to largely center on the leaders' efforts to stay united in their response to Russia's war in Ukraine and to coordinate their approach to an increasingly assertive China.

But ahead of Thursday's meeting, Macron made clear that he and other European leaders remain deeply concerned about the incentives in a sweeping new climate-related law that favor American-made climate technology, including electric vehicles.

Macron on Wednesday criticized the legislation, known as the Inflation Reduction Act, during a luncheon with U.S. lawmakers and again during a speech at the French embassy. The French president said that while the Biden administration's efforts to curb climate change should be applauded, the subsidies would be an enormous setback for European companies.

"The choices that have been made ... are choices that will fragment the West," Macron said at the French embassy. He added that the legislation "creates such differences between the United States of America and Europe that all those who work in many companies (in the U.S.), they will just think, 'We don't make investments any more on the other side of the Atlantic.'"

Separately, at the luncheon with members of Congress from both parties, along with business leaders and diplomats, Macron said that major industrial nations need to do more to address climate change and promote biodiversity.

He criticized a deal reached at a recent climate summit in Egypt in which the United States and other wealthy nations agreed to help pay for the damage that an overheating world is inflicting on poor countries. The deal includes few details on how it will be paid for, and Macron said a more comprehensive approach is needed — "not just a new fund we decided which will not be funded and even if it is funded, it will not be rightly allocated."

Speaking after his prepared remarks and without cameras present, Macron took aim at the Inflation Reduction Act, calling the subsidies harmful to French companies and others in Europe, according to a person in the closed-door meeting. The person requested anonymity to discuss the private comments from Macron.

The European Union has expressed concern that tax credits in the climate law, including those aimed at encouraging Americans to buy electric vehicles, would discriminate against European producers and break World Trade Organization rules.

Asia

Russian, Chinese bombers fly joint patrols over Pacific

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian and Chinese strategic bombers on Wednesday flew a joint patrol over the western Pacific in a show of increasingly close defense ties between the two countries.

The Russian Defense Ministry said that the Tu-95 bombers of the Russian air force and the Chinese H-6K bombers flew over the Sea of Japan and the East China Sea during an eight-hour mission.

As part of the drills, the Russian bombers for the first time landed in China and the Chinese bombers flew to an air base in Russia, the ministry said in a statement. It noted that the joint patrols weren't directed against any other country.

China's Defense Ministry described Wednesday's patrols as a "routine" part of an annual cooperation plan between the two militaries.

The exercise follows a series of joint drills intended to showcase a growing military cooperation between Moscow and Beijing as they both face tensions with the United States.

AP

In this handout photo taken from video released by the Russian Defense Ministry Press Service on Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2022, a view of a Tu-95 strategic bomber of the Russian air force taxiing before takeoff for a joint air patrol with Chinese bombers at an airbase in an unspecified location in Russia.

In September, Beijing sent more than 2,000 troops along with more than 300 military vehicles, 21 combat aircraft and three warships to take part in a sweeping joint exercise with Russia. The maneuvers marked the first time that China has sent forces from three branches of its military to take part in a single Russian drill, in what was described as a show of the breadth and depth of China-Russia military cooperation and mutual trust.

Defense cooperation between Moscow and Beijing has grown stronger since Russian President Vladimir Putin sent his troops into Ukraine on Feb. 24.

China, which has declared a "no limits" friendship with Russia, has pointedly refused to criticize Moscow's actions, blaming the U.S. and NATO for provoking the Kremlin, and has blasted the punishing sanctions imposed on Russia.

Russia, in turn, has strongly backed China amid the tensions with the U.S. that followed a visit to Taiwan by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Washington has warned Beijing against offering Russia direct military or economic assistance, although China's energy-hungry economy is one of the biggest customers for Russian oil and gas. Its purchases more than doubled compared with a year ago, to $10.2 billion in October, as Chinese importers took advantage of discounts offered by Moscow.

In a letter Tuesday, Chinese President Xi Jinping said Beijing was ready to "forge closer partnership" with Russia in energy, potentially expanding ties.

4 dead as bomber hits Pakistan police protecting polio teams

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)—A suicide bomber blew himself up near a truck carrying police officers on their way to protect polio workers near Quetta, Pakistan on Wednesday, killing a police officer and three family members traveling in a car nearby. The bombing wounded 23 others, mostly police, officials said.

Ghulam Azfer Mehser, a senior police officer, said the attack happened as the police were heading to the polio workers as part of a nationwide vaccination drive launched Monday.

The blast was so powerful that it toppled the truck carrying police officers into a ravine, he said, adding that the bombing also damaged a nearby car carrying members of a family.

He said that the anti-polio campaign will continue even after the bombing.

Pakistani President Arif Alvi, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and other officials in separate statements condemned the attack. It came a day after Pakistani Deputy Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khan traveled to Kabul to discuss a range of issues with the Afghan Taliban, including the latest threat from the local Taliban.

Pakistan wants Afghanistan's Taliban not to allow the Pakistani militants to use their soil to launch attacks inside this Islamic nation, which has witnessed scores of attacks. Most have been blamed on the Pakistani Taliban, who in a statement claimed responsibility for the bombing in Baluchistan on Wednesday.

The Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan group, or TTP, said the attack in Baluchistan targeted police to avenge the killing of their former spokesperson, Abdul Wali. He was widely known as Omar Khalid Khurasani and was killed in a bombing in Afghanistan's Paktika province in August. His death was a heavy blow to the group.

The attack on police came amid a spike in new polio cases among children. The latest vaccination campaign is the sixth such drive this year and will last for five days, aiming to inoculate children under the age of 5 in high-risk areas.

The drive is aimed at Islamabad and in the high-risk districts in eastern Punjab and southwestern Baluchistan province, where Monday's attack took place. It killed at least two people, including a police officer and a child. A similar campaign will be launched in the northwest in the first week of December.

Pakistani authorities have been launching such campaigns regularly despite attacks on workers and police assigned to inoculation drives.

Militants falsely claim that vaccination campaigns are a Western conspiracy to sterilize children. Since April, Pakistan has registered 20 new polio cases, which can cause severe paralysis in children.

Pakistan came close to eradicating polio last year, when only one case was reported.

Currently, Pakistan and Afghanistan are the last two countries in which polio has not been eliminated.

Wednesday's bombing happened two days after The Pakistani Taliban ended a monthslong cease-fire with the government in Islamabad, ordering its fighters to resume attacks across the country, where scores of deadly attacks have been blamed on the insurgent group. In Monday's statement, the outlawed TTP group said it would end the five-month cease-fire after the army stepped up operations against the TTP.

Pakistan and the TTP had agreed to an indefinite cease-fire in May after talks in Afghanistan's capital. The Pakistani Taliban are a separate group but are allies of the Afghanistan Taliban, who seized power in Afghanistan more than a year ago as the U.S. and NATO troops were in the final stages of their pullout. The Taliban takeover in Afghanistan emboldened TTP, whose top leaders and fighters are hiding in Afghanistan.

The latest violence comes a day after Pakistan's new military chief, Gen. Asim Munir, took command. Since then, the Pakistani Taliban have stepped up attacks on security forces in the northwest. The military in a statement said an exchange of fire took place between troops and militants in the North Waziristan district Wednesday, leaving a soldier dead. It claimed that troops in the ensuing firefight killed a militant but provided no further details.

Munir, a former spymaster, replaced Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa after he retired from the post after a six-year term. Bajwa, during his tenure, had approved a series of operations against the militants in Baluchistan, northwest and elsewhere in the country.

The latest attack also comes a day after the military claimed it killed 10 "terrorists" in a raid in the Hoshab district of Baluchistan province. For nearly two decades Baluchistan has been the scene of a low-level insurgency by separatists demanding independence from the central government in Islamabad. The government says it has quelled the insurgency, but violence in the province has persisted.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Polio is back in Indonesia, sparking vaccination campaign

PIDIE, Indonesia (AP)—Children in school uniforms and toddlers with their parents lined up Monday for polio vaccinations in the Sigli town square on the northern tip of the Indonesian island of Sumatra, after four children were found infected with the highly contagious disease that was declared eliminated in the country less than a decade ago.

The virus was first detected in October in a 7-year-old boy suffering from partial paralysis in the province of Aceh near Sigli, and since then three other cases have been detected, prompting the mass immunization and information drive.

Tokyo court: Lack of law for same-sex union unconstitutional

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's lack of law to protect the rights of same-sex couples to marry and become families violates the constitution, the Tokyo District Court ruled Wednesday in a closely watched case in a country still largely bound by traditional gender roles and family values.

The court, however, said the government's lack of legislative action is not illegal and threw out plaintiffs' compensation demands of 1 million yen ($7,215) each. Still, the ruling was a partial victory for LGBTQ couples.

There is no rationality to justify the absence of legal protection for same-sex couples and "it is in a state of violation" of the Article 24 of the Japanese Constitution, the court said. Same-sex couples should enjoy the same legal protection as heterosexual couples through marriage, it said.

N. Korea's Kim calls for meeting to review state affairs

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called for a major political conference before year's end where he's expected to address his increasingly tense relations with Washington and Seoul over the expansion of his nuclear and missile programs.

North Korea's state media said Thursday that Kim presided over a meeting of the ruling Workers' Party's Politburo in which members reviewed the implementation of state policies in 2022 and decided to hold a larger plenary meeting of the party's Central Committee at an unspecified time in late December.

Kim in recent years has used political conferences in late December or early January to review state affairs and reveal his most important goals in economic and foreign policy and arms development. It's possible that those meetings are replacing the function of Kim's New Year's Day speeches, which he has skipped since 2020 after using them for years to issue major announcements.

World

Ukraine welcomes arms offers, no word on Patriot missiles

BUCHAREST (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Wednesday condemned Russia's weeks-long assault on Ukraine's power grid and other infrastructure as an attempt to "freeze and starve" its people, with the war-torn country's foreign minister renewing a call for advanced missile systems.

Blinken spoke after a meeting with his NATO counterparts in Bucharest, Romania devoted in part to coordinating aid to keep the lights — and furnaces — on in Ukraine, where Russian strikes have damaged much of the country's electrical infrastructure.

"Russia has bombed out more than a third of Ukraine's energy system. Plunging millions into cold, into darkness as frigid temperatures set in. Heat. Water. Electricity. For children, for the elderly, for the sick. These are President (Vladimir) Putin's new targets. He's hitting them hard," he said.

AP

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken meets with Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba during the NATO foreign ministers meeting in Bucharest, Romania, Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2022.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba has underscored that his country's biggest needs now are electrical gear and more advanced air-defense systems than it has so far received from the U.S. and other allies, to stop Russia from bombing its grid in the first place.

"The best way to help the Ukrainian energy system is to provide both spare parts to restore (the) energy system and air defense systems and ammunition to defend Ukraine's energy system from further missile terror conducted by Russia," Kuleba said.

Heading into a one-on-one session with Blinken on the sidelines of the NATO gathering, Kuleba said that Ukraine at the session had received "a number of commitments, new commitments, from various NATO members with regard to providing Ukraine with more defensive weapons and energy equipment."

But he declined to answer questions about whether that included promises of badly wanted Patriot missile batteries, from the U.S. or any other ally. Kuleba did say, however, that Ukraine would take German Patriots, if those Berlin has offered to Poland can be spared.

The provision of Patriot surface-to-air missiles to Ukraine would mark a major advance in the kinds of air defense systems the West is sending to help the war-torn country defend itself from Russian aerial attack. Talk of it has already angered Moscow.

"If Germany is ready to provide Patriots to Poland, and Poland has nothing against handing these patriots over to Ukraine, then I think that the solution for the German government is obvious," Kuleba told reporters.

"We are ready to operate them in the safest and efficient and most efficient way. And once again, I would like to reiterate that this is a purely defensive weapon. We will be working with the German government on this particular issue next time," he added.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said Tuesday that his country's offer to send Patriots to Poland remains on the table, despite Warsaw's suggestion that they should go to Ukraine instead.

Ukraine does not have personnel trained to used Patriots — a complicated air defense system of which there are three main types, with varying ranges and altitudes. Germany has lent them to Slovakia and Turkey but sent its own technicians to operate the missiles.

NATO allies would almost certainly refuse to send any military personnel into Ukraine, to avoid being dragged into a wider war with nuclear armed Russia. They would also want guarantees that Ukraine would only use the missiles to defend its air space and not fire them into Russian territory.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg has confirmed that deliveries of such sophisticated surface to air missiles systems are under consideration among some allies. The military organization does not possess any weapons, only its member countries do.

A senior U.S. defense official who briefed Pentagon reporters on Tuesday, on condition of anonymity, said that the United States is open to providing Patriots. While Ukraine has asked for the system for months, the U.S. and its allies have been hesitant to provide it to avoid further provoking Russia.

WORLD BRIEFS

German parliament labels 1930s Ukraine famine as genocide

BERLIN (AP)—Germany's parliament on Wednesday approved a resolution recognizing as genocide Ukraine's 1930s "Holodomor," a famine believed to have killed more than 3 million Ukrainians under the repressive rule of Soviet leader Josef Stalin.

The resolution was brought to the lower house, or Bundestag, by the three parties in Chancellor Olaf Scholz's governing coalition and the main opposition bloc. After a debate attended by Ukraine's ambassador to Germany, it passed with their support in a show of hands, while the two other opposition parties abstained.

The vote comes days after Ukrainians marked the 90th anniversary of the start of the famine.

The resolution states that "the mass deaths from hunger were not a result of failed harvests; the political leadership of the Soviet Union under Josef Stalin was responsible for them." It adds that all things Ukrainian were "deeply suspect" to Stalin and notes that "the whole of Ukraine was affected by hunger and repression, not just its grain-producing areas."

Firefighters: At least 30 engulfed by Brazil landslide

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Firefighters in the Brazilian state of Parana worked tirelessly Wednesday to find about 30 people thought to have been engulfed in a landslide that hit a coastal highway.

Two people have been found dead and six were rescued alive since the landslide on Monday, state officials said in a statement. They warned that the number of victims could differ from their estimate, as it was impossible to say how many passengers were traveling in each of the 16 cars and trucks identified.

The landslide hit the BR-376 highway in the city of Guaratuba following intense and continuous rain in the region. A search and rescue team of 54 firefighters and specialists continued to work Wednesday in spite of bad weather, using tow trucks, search dogs and drones with thermal cameras to help detect any signs of life.

IS says leader Abu al-Hassan al-Qurayshi killed in battle

BEIRUT (AP)—The leader of the Islamic State group, Abu al-Hassan al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi, was killed in battle recently, the group's spokesman said in audio released Wednesday. He gave no further details.

Al-Qurayshi is the second IS leader to be killed this year at a time when the extremist group has been trying to rise again with its sleeper cells carrying out deadly attacks in Iraq and Syria. Its affiliate in Afghanistan also claimed attacks that killed dozens in recent months.

The U.S. military said al-Qurayshi was killed in mid-October adding that the operation was conducted by Syrian rebels in Syria's southern province of Daraa. It was not clear why the announcement was made on Wednesday, more than a month after al-Qurayshi was killed.

"ISIS remains a threat to the region," the U.S. Central Command said. "CENTCOM and our partners remain focused on the enduring defeat of ISIS."

Buckingham Palace household member resigns amid race comment

LONDON (AP)—An honorary member of the Buckingham Palace household has resigned after repeatedly asking a Black woman who runs a charity for survivors of domestic abuse what country she "came from," despite her insistence she was a British national.

The conversation was detailed on Twitter by Ngozi Fulani, chief executive of Sistah Space, an east London refuge that provides specialist support for women of African and Caribbean heritage.

The incident took place at a reception hosted by Camilla, the queen consort, for women working to fight domestic violence.

Fulani said that when she told a household member she was from east London, she was asked, "No, what part of Africa are YOU from?"

The palace said it took the incident extremely seriously and investigated the "unacceptable and deeply regrettable comments."

Britain's Press Association and a number of other media outlets in Britain identified the woman who made the remarks as Lady Susan Hussey, who served as Queen Elizabeth II's lady in waiting for more than 60 years. She is also a godmother to the Prince of Wales.

Fulani named the member of the palace household only as Lady SH. Buckingham Palace declined comment on the identity of the individual.

The incident will spark concern at the palace following allegations of racism by Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, who is married to Prince Harry. Meghan, a biracial American, last year said a member of the royal household asked her what color skin her baby would have when she was pregnant with her first child.

Off The Wall

Celery stalk in trash, luck, lead to lost wedding rings

AP

This photo provided by Dennis Senibaldi, a transfer station supervisor, shows the wedding rings recovered from a 20-ton trash trailer on Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2022, in Windham, N.H.

WINDHAM, N.H. (AP)—A celery stalk sighting and a little luck came together to help a New Hampshire man find his wife's wedding rings in a 20-ton trash trailer, the jewelry wrapped in a napkin he had accidentally thrown away.

Kevin Butler had taken the trash to a transfer station in Windham last Wednesday. Unwittingly, he had tossed the napkin into the white trash bag, not realizing his wife had cleaned the rings and wrapped them in the napkin to dry.

Several hours later, he returned and asked for help in finding the rings amid the piles of garbage.

"He said, 'I'm pretty sure I threw the rings out,'" Dennis Senibaldi, the transfer station supervisor, said Tuesday.

Senibaldi and his crew reviewed surveillance video to see what time Butler first showed up at the transfer station and where he threw it out. They used an excavator to start scooping up trash from the trailer.

After about five or six scoops, they saw a white bag with a telltale clue.

"One of the things he said was (inside) was celery stalks, and I could see a celery stalk sticking out the side of the bag," Senibaldi said.

They started going through the bag, but there was no sign of the rings.

But at the very bottom, underneath some carrot or sweet potato peelings, there was a napkin. "Literally, I opened up the napkin, there were the two rings," Senibaldi said.

Butler jumped up and hugged Senibaldi.

"I wouldn't recommend doing that," Butler told WMUR-TV of searching through the trash, "but to get the rings back, I would do it a thousand times over."

Baguette gets UN world heritage status

PARIS (AP)—The humble baguette—the crunchy ambassador for French baking around the world—is being added to the U.N.'s list of intangible cultural heritage as a cherished tradition to be preserved by humanity.

UNESCO experts gathering in Morocco this week decided that the simple French flute—made only of flour, water, salt, and yeast—deserved United Nations recognition, after France's culture ministry warned of a "continuous decline" in the number of traditional bakeries, with some 400 closing every year over the past half-century.

The U.N. cultural agency's chief, Audrey Azoulay, said the decision honors more than just bread; it recognizes the "savoir-faire of artisanal bakers" and "a daily ritual."

"It is important that such craft knowledge and social practices can continue to exist in the future," added Azoulay, a former French culture minister.

The agency defines intangible cultural heritage as "traditions or living expressions inherited from our ancestors and passed on to our descendants."

With the bread's new status, the French government said it planned to create an artisanal baguette day, called the "Open Bakehouse Day," to connect the French better with their heritage.

Back in France, bakers seemed proud, if unsurprised.

"Of course, it should be on the list because the baguette symbolizes the world. It's universal," said Asma Farhat, baker at Julien's Bakery near Paris' Champs-Elysees avenue.

"If there's no baguette, you can't have a proper meal. In the morning you can toast it, for lunch it's a sandwich, and then it accompanies dinner."

Although it seems like the quintessential French product, the baguette was said to have been invented by Vienna-born baker August Zang in 1839. Zang put in place France's steam oven, making it possible to produce bread with a brittle crust yet fluffy interior.

The product's zenith did not come until the 1920s, with the advent of a French law preventing bakers from working before 4 a.m. The baguette's long, thin shape meant it could be made more quickly than its stodgy cousins, so it was the only bread that bakers could make in time for breakfast.

Despite the decline in traditional bakery numbers today, France's 67 million people still remain voracious baguette consumers—purchased at a variety of sales points, including in supermarkets. The problem is, observers say, that they can often be poor in quality.

"It's very easy to get bad baguette in France. It's the traditional baguette from the traditional bakery that's in danger. It's about quality not quantity," said one Paris resident, Marine Fourchier, 52.

In January, French supermarket chain Leclerc was criticized by traditional bakers and farmers for its much publicized 29-cent baguette, accused of sacrificing the quality of the famed 65-centimeter (26-inch) loaf. A baguette normally costs just over 90 euro cents (just over $1), seen by some as an index on the health of the French economy.

Not just fast food; baby comes quickly at Atlanta McDonald's

ATLANTA (AP)—Yes, they've nicknamed the baby "Nugget," after a woman delivered a girl at an Atlanta McDonald's.

Alandria Worthy tells WXIA-TV that her labor was intensifying and her fiancé was driving her to the hospital Wednesday morning when they stopped so she could use the bathroom at the fast food restaurant.

"I went into the bathroom and my water broke immediately," Worthy said.

Worthy said she started screaming. Restaurant manager Tunisia Woodward went to see what was happening.

"I open this door, didn't see anyone, but I saw feet (under the door)," Woodward said. "I opened, and she was on this toilet lying back, screaming. Then I knew to tell my crew, 'We're having a baby today.'"

Woodward and two workers began to help. The fiancé, Deandre Phillips, came in to check what was taking so long, only to find Worthy giving birth.

"I was trying to calm her down because she was frantic," Phillips said. "I was like, 'Just breathe.' I got her on the floor, and I took off my clothes. The ladies at McDonald's were at her front side, holding her hands, I had her feet propped up on my knees. We told her to push three pushes. She was a fighter."

Less than fifteen minutes later, Nandi Ariyah Moremi Phillips was born.

"Oh, my God, it's still crazy that it happened," Worthy said.

"Yes, she popped out onto my hand," Phillips said.

The parents tell the TV station "divine intervention" brought them to McDonald's where three women could help.

"We all are mothers and so we put our heads together and all we needed daddy to do was catch the baby. And he did," Woodward said of herself and her coworkers, Sha'querria Kaigler and Keisha Blue-Murray.

Although the baby's birth certificate reads "Nandi Ariyah Moremi Phillips," the McDonald's crew gave the baby girl another name.

"I said, we're going to name her Little Nugget. That's her nickname: McDonald's Little Nugget," Woodward said.

That nickname may stick.

"She's definitely a nugget," Phillips agreed. "My parents loved the name, too. We were like, okay, it fits her. My little nugget."

NY sergeant hailed for aiding at 2017 birth helps at another

SHIRLEY, N.Y. (AP)—A group of police officers who helped deliver a baby at a Long Island home over the weekend included a sergeant who helped another newborn take his first breath five years ago.

This time, Suffolk County Sgt. Jon-Erik Negron joined officers Conor Diemer, Jadin Rodriguez and Zachary Vormittag after a woman went into labor at her Shirley home on Saturday.

The woman gave birth to a boy about 15 minutes after calling 911, police said. An ambulance arrived soon after the birth, and the baby and mother were taken to a hospital in good health.

Back in August 2017, Negron responded when another baby arrived unexpectedly at a Mount Sinai home. After a complication, the baby wasn't breathing when Negron arrived. He sucked fluid out of the infant's airway with a turkey baster or the like from the parents' kitchen, and the boy started breathing.

The grateful parents asked Negron to be the infant's godfather, and he accepted. The boy's father, Mike Pappalardo, told Newsday that the sergeant celebrates birthdays and holidays with the family.

Negron, 37, has no children himself, but he has also assisted at other births during his career, according to Newsday.

He told the newspaper that he keeps expecting each one to be the last, "but at this point, I wouldn't be surprised if it happened again."

ICYMI, pumpkin spice are among new Merriam-Webster's entries

By MARK PRATT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Finding out that shrinkflation, adorkable, subvariant and even pumpkin spice are now officially in the dictionary might make you exclaim "Yeet!"

ICYMI, those are five of the 370 words and phrases that Merriam-Webster added to its dictionary this month, the publisher announced Wednesday. Oh yeah, ICYMI, short for "in case you missed it," was also added.

"Some of these words will amuse or inspire, others may provoke debate. Our job is to capture the language as it is used," Peter Sokolowski, Merriam-Webster's editor at large, said in a statement. "Words offer a window into our ever-changing language and culture, and are only added to the dictionary when there is clear and sustained evidence of use."

Worldwide inflation has made shrinkflation a household word. It is defined by the Springfield, Massachusetts publisher as "the practice of reducing a product's amount or volume per unit while continuing to offer it at the same price." Think, going to the grocery store and finding that orange juice is no longer available in 64 fluid ounce (1.9 liter) cartons, just 59 ounce.

Pumpkin spice — that polarizing blend of cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, cloves and allspice that's used to flavor, well, just about everything every fall these days — has been around for years but is finally in the dictionary.

Many of the words are slang or used informally on social media. Adorkable, a mashup of dorky and adorable, means "socially awkward or quirky in a way that is endearing." Yeet is either "used to express surprise, approval, or excited enthusiasm" or as a verb to mean "to throw especially with force and without regard for the thing being thrown," according to Merriam-Webster's definition.

The worldwide coronavirus pandemic has pushed terms once heard almost exclusively in medical circles onto everyone's tongue, including subvariant, booster dose, and emergency use authorization, which are all new dictionary entries.

Many new words are drawn from popular culture, including the verb MacGyver, inspired by the television character who can make or repair just about anything with ordinary items within reach.

Science & Technology

Japan's births at new low as population shrinks and ages

TOKYO (AP)—The number of babies born in Japan this year is below last year's record low in what the the top government spokesman described as a "critical situation."

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno promised comprehensive measures to encourage more marriages and births.

The total of 599,636 Japanese born in January-September was 4.9% below last year's figure, suggesting the number of births in all of 2022 might fall below last year's record low of 811,000 babies, he said.

Japan is the world's third biggest economy but living costs are high and wage increases have been slow. The conservative government has lagged on making society more inclusive for children, women and minorities.

So far, the government's efforts to encourage people to have more babies have had limited impact despite payments of subsidies for pregnancy, childbirth and child care.

"The pace is even slower than last year ... I understand that it is a critical situation," Matsuno said.

Many younger Japanese have balked at marrying or having families, discouraged by bleak job prospects, onerous commutes and corporate cultures incompatible with having both parents work.

The number of births has been falling since 1973, when it peaked at about 2.1 million. It's projected to fall to 740,000 in 2040.

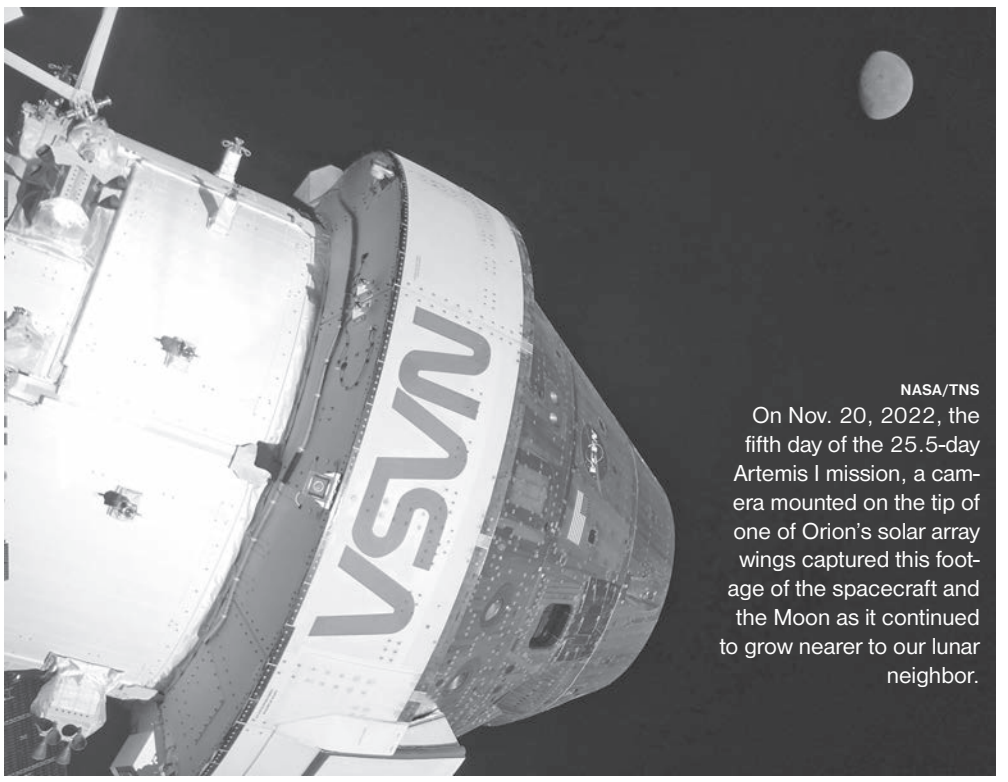
Japan's population of more than 125 million has been declining for 14 years and is projected to fall to 86.7 million by 2060. A shrinking and aging population has huge implications for the economy and for national security as the country fortifies its military to counter China's increasingly assertive territorial ambitions.

A government-commissioned panel submitted a report to Prime Minister Fumio Kishida last week citing the low birth rate and falling population as factors that might erode Japan's national strength.

AP

Children play in the water to cool off at a park in Yokohama, near Tokyo, Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2020.

Orion reaches its farthest distance from Earth on Artemis I mission



NASA/TNS

On Nov. 20, 2022, the fifth day of the 25.5-day Artemis I mission, a camera mounted on the tip of one of Orion's solar array wings captured this footage of the spacecraft and the Moon as it continued to grow nearer to our lunar neighbor.

By RICHARD TRIBOU
ORLANDO SENTINEL

ORLANDO, Fla.—NASA officials said the Orion spacecraft traveled to its farthest distance from Earth on Monday, two days after breaking a record set by Apollo 13.

On Saturday, Orion, which launched atop the Space Launch System rocket from Kennedy Space Center on Nov. 16, surpassed the previous record of 248,655 miles from the planet, which was the farthest away from Earth astronauts Jim Lovell, John Swigert and Fred Haise traveled during their aborted 1970 moon-landing mission.

The uncrewed Orion, which has three mannequin passengers on board, reached 268,554 miles from Earth at 4:48 p.m. as part of the capsule's distant retrograde orbit (DRO) around the moon, marking the halfway point of the 25.5-day mission.

"It was really an important phase of our mission," said NASA's Orion program manager Howard Hu during a Monday press conference. "It got us into a point where we feel really good getting to this part of the mission, and really an opportunity to I would say catch our breath a little bit."

Retrograde means the orbiting spacecraft circles the moon opposite the moon's spin and orbit of the Earth. The distant part means that Orion's lunar orbit has reached around 40,000 miles from the moon's surface.

Orion entered DRO on Friday after having performed a slingshot around the moon on its closest approach last week, coming in about 81 miles from the surface.

NASA plans to have Orion complete only one half of this orbit, so that on Thursday, NASA managers look to fire up its engines again to bring it back down for a close approach to the lunar surface. It will then swing back around the moon on Dec. 5 to begin its return on a speedy trajectory to Earth for a splashdown in the Pacific Ocean on Dec. 11.

The No. 1 milestone for the mission is to prove Orion's heat shields can withstand reentry. The expected speed of 24,500 mph that would generate near 5,000 degrees Fahrenheit would also set a record for human-rated spacecraft.

"Artemis builds on Apollo," said NASA Administrator Bill Nelson. "Not only are we going farther but coming home faster, but Artemis is paving the way to live and work in deep space in a hostile environment to invent, to create and ultimately to go on with humans to Mars."

So far mission objectives have been so much on target that teams are coming up with additional data to check while Orion is out in deep space.

"It's incredible how smooth this mission's gone, but it is a test, and that's what we do," Nelson said. "We stress it and test it."

If all goes well, NASA can move forward with its planned crewed orbital mission to the moon—Artemis II—planned for no earlier than May 2022, but that could slip since it takes about two years from when the crew is named before it can launch, according to NASA astronaut Stan Love.

"Nothing until this flight gets back safely," he said ahead of liftoff at KSC. "I would expect in the spring of 2023, we would hear who's going to be on the next one."

That said, Love expects to be named a capsule communicator (CAPCOM) from mission control in Houston for Artemis II and work has been rolling on it for months.

"We know who our flight directors are, we know who our CAPCOMs are. We know who a lot of our flight controllers are and we're getting ready. We just don't know who our crew is," he said.

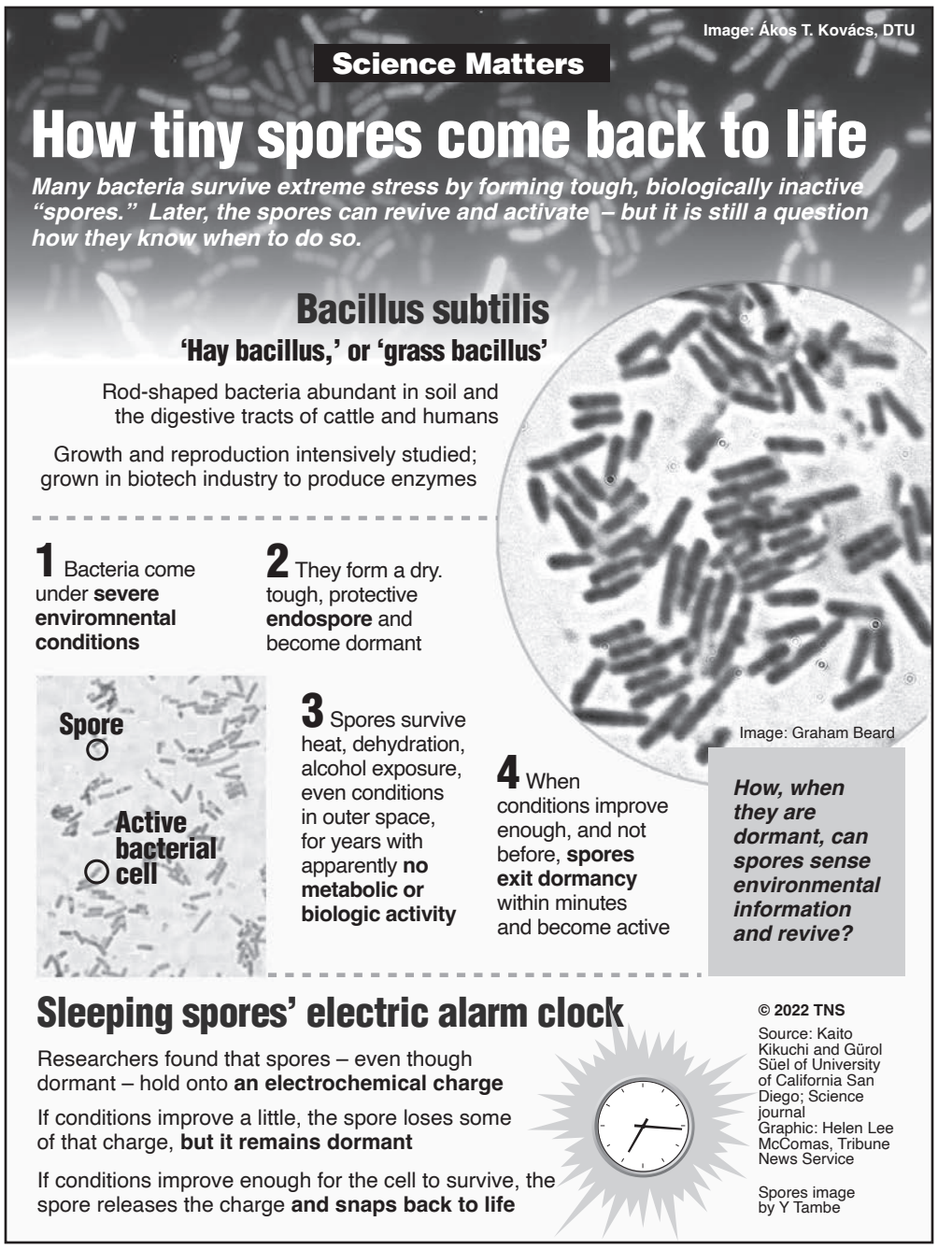


Image: Ákos T. Kovács, DTU
Science Matters
How tiny spores come back to life
Many bacteria survive extreme stress by forming tough, biologically inactive "spores." Later, the spores can revive and activate – but it is still a question how they know when to do so.
Bacillus subtilis
'Hay bacillus,' or 'grass bacillus'
Rod-shaped bacteria abundant in soil and the digestive tracts of cattle and humans
Growth and reproduction intensively studied; grown in biotech industry to produce enzymes
1 Bacteria come under severe enviromnental conditions
2 They form a dry, tough, protective endospore and become dormant
Spore
Active bacterial cell
3 Spores survive heat, dehydration, alcohol exposure, even conditions in outer space, for years with apparently no metabolic or biologic activity
4 When conditions improve enough, and not before, spores exit dormancy within minutes and become active
Image: Graham Beard
How, when they are dormant, can spores sense environmental information and revive?
Sleeping spores' electric alarm clock
Researchers found that spores – even though dormant – hold onto an electrochemical charge
If conditions improve a little, the spore loses some of that charge, but it remains dormant
If conditions improve enough for the cell to survive, the spore releases the charge and snaps back to life
© 2022 TNS
Source: Kaito Kikuchi and Gürol Süel of University of California San Diego; Science journal
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service
Spores image by Y Tambe

Life & Style

Egyptians call on British Museum to return Rosetta stone

CAIRO (AP)—The debate over who owns ancient artifacts has been an increasing challenge to museums across Europe and America, and the spotlight has fallen on the most visited piece in the British Museum: The Rosetta stone.

The inscriptions on the dark grey granite slab became the seminal breakthrough in deciphering ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics after it was taken from Egypt by forces of the British empire in 1801.

Now, as Britain's largest museum marks the 200-year anniversary of the decipherment of hieroglyphics, thousands of Egyptians are demanding the stone's return.

''The British Museum's holding of the stone is a symbol of Western cultural violence against Egypt," said Monica Hanna, dean at the Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport, and organizer of one of two petitions calling for the stone's return.

The acquisition of the Rosetta Stone was tied up in the imperial battles between Britain and France. After Napoleon Bonaparte's military occupation of Egypt, French scientists uncovered the stone in 1799 in the northern town of Rashid, known by the French as Rosetta. When British forces defeated the French in Egypt, the stone and over a dozen other antiquities were handed over to the British under the terms of an 1801 surrender deal between the generals of the two sides.

AP

This undated photo provided by the British Museum, shows the Rosetta Stone, the centerpiece of a new exhibition at London's largest museum titled, "Hieroglyphs unlocking ancient Egypt," celebrating the 200th anniversary of the stone's decipherment, at the British Museum, in London.

It has remained in the British Museum since.

Hanna's petition, with 4,200 signatures, says the stone was seized illegally and constitutes a "spoil of war." The claim is echoed in a near identical petition by Zahi Hawass, Egypt's former minister for antiquities affairs, which has more than 100,000 signatures. Hawass argues that Egypt had no say in the 1801 agreement.

The British Museum refutes this. In a statement, the Museum said the 1801 treaty includes the signature of a representative of Egypt. It refers to an Ottoman admiral who fought alongside the British against the French. The Ottoman sultan in Istanbul was nominally the ruler of Egypt at the time of Napoleon's invasion.

The Museum also said Egypt's government has not submitted a request for its return. It added that there are 28 known copies of the same engraved decree and 21 of them remain in Egypt.

The contention over the original stone copy stems from its unrivaled significance to Egyptology. Carved in the 2nd century B.C., the slab contains three translations of a decree relating to a settlement between the then-ruling Ptolemies and a sect of Egyptian priests. The first inscription is in classic hieroglyphics, the next is in a simplified hieroglyphic script known as Demotic, and the third is in Ancient Greek.

Through knowledge of the latter, academics were able to decipher the hieroglyphic symbols, with French Egyptologist Jean-Francois Champollion eventually cracking the language in 1822.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Christine McVie, Fleetwood Mac singer-songwriter, dies at 79

NEW YORK (AP)—Christine McVie, the British-born Fleetwood Mac vocalist, songwriter and keyboard player whose cool, soulful contralto helped define such classics as "You Make Loving Fun," "Everywhere" and "Don't Stop," died Wednesday at age 79. Her death was announced on the band's social media accounts. No cause of death or other details were immediately provided, but a family statement said she "passed away peacefully at hospital this morning" with family around her after a "short illness." "A few hours ago I was told that my best friend in the whole world since the first day of 1975, had passed away," bandmate Stevie Nicks said in a handwritten note posted to Instagram. She added that one song has been "swirling around" in her head since she found out McVie was sick, quoting the lyrics to HAIM's "Hallelujah": "I had a best friend/But she has come to pass."

Rolling Stones to release star-stuffed 2012 live recording

NEW YORK (AP)—The Rolling Stones plan to release what they're calling their "ultimate live greatest hits album," with appearances by Lady Gaga, Bruce Springsteen, Gary Clark Jr. and The Black Keys, early next year. "GRRR Live!" contains songs recorded live on Dec. 15, 2012, at Newark, New Jersey's Prudential Center. That night saw guest appearances by The Black Keys ("Who Do You Love?"), Clark and John Mayer ("Going Down"), Lady Gaga ("Gimme Shelter"), Mick Taylor ("Midnight Rambler") and hometown hero Bruce Springsteen ("Tumbling Dice"). Shown on pay-per-view in 2012, the concert has not otherwise been available to fans until now. It also features some of the band's greatest hits, including "It's Only Rock 'n' Roll (But I Like It)," "Honky Tonk Women," "Start Me Up," "Sympathy For the Devil" and "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction." The 24-track collection will be released on Feb. 10 in vinyl, CD, DVD, digital and Blu-ray formats.

Mistrial after jury deadlock in Danny Masterson rape case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge declared a mistrial Wednesday at the rape trial of "That '70s Show" actor Danny Masterson after jurors, who were leaning strongly toward acquitting him, deadlocked following the monthlong trial in which the Church of Scientology played a supporting role. Prosecutors said Masterson raped three women, including a former girlfriend, in his Hollywood Hills home between 2001 and 2003 and the church dissuaded them from going public for years. Masterson, 46, pleaded not guilty and his lawyer said the acts were all consensual. "I find the jurors hopelessly deadlocked," Judge Charlaine Olmedo declared after the jury foreman said there was nothing the court could do to move them closer to reaching a unanimous decision. She set a March date for a retrial in Los Angeles Superior Court.

UK royals arrive in Boston to showcase youthful monarchy

BOSTON (AP)—The Prince and Princess of Wales embarked Wednesday on their first overseas trip since the death of Queen Elizabeth II, aiming to showcase the younger face of a monarchy that is tackling important issues like climate change as it attempts to remain relevant in a modern, multicultural Britain. The three-day trip to Boston is focused on Prince William's splashy initiative to award millions of dollars to a new generation of environmental entrepreneurs who are developing everything from cleaner burning stoves to alternatives to leather. It will include visits to a program for at-risk youth, a sustainability lab and a tour of Boston's shoreline to see the city's effort to combat climate change. It will culminate Friday in the awarding of the prince's signature Earthshot Prize, a global competition aimed at finding new ways to protect the planet and tackle climate change.

Woman accosted after church for saying things she didn't

DEAR ABBY: A friend, "Marie," approached me in the parking lot after church, raising her voice, flailing her arms and saying three people had told her that I told them to stay away from her and her husband. I told Marie it wasn't true, and she and her husband were my friends. She reiterated that three people said it, shaking her hand and holding up three fingers in my face.

When I asked who they were, she wouldn't tell me. I asked her if she would get the three people together at her house because I would like to talk to them in person—she said no to that request, too. I then stated that we were standing on hallowed ground in the church parking lot, and I was telling her the truth. Again, she insisted she heard differently from three people.

I was very upset to be accused of a total lie and at Marie's refusal to believe me. When I suggested we go inside the church and I would put my hands on Jesus' feet and swear I never said anything about her and her husband, she said she didn't have time.

After I came home from church, I sent a text to the only two friends I had spoken to recently and asked them if I had said anything to them about Marie and her husband. Both replied no. I sent a copy of both texts to Marie so she could read them for herself. I thought it would be another way of showing I am not guilty.

How on Earth can I prove I am not guilty if Marie won't let me talk to the three supposed people or swear on Jesus' feet that I'm not guilty? What should I do?

ACCUSED IN IDAHO

DEAR ACCUSED: Because this unhappy scenario happened on church property, consider discussing it with your religious adviser. Marie's actions were over the top. Could she have emotional problems you aren't aware of? If members of the congregation are really carrying nasty and disruptive tales after church as she has asserted, your preacher may want to deliver a sermon soon about "bearing false witness." You have my sympathy.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: For many years, my wife and I have donated items to charitable agencies. I have been a blood donor for many years. Sometimes, I get a "thank-you" item, such as a T-shirt with words on it indicating that I donated.

I'm not comfortable donating a shirt with such a message. The person who receives it might not be a blood donor. While wearing it, the person might be thanked by someone who sees the shirt. That person wouldn't have the right to "steal the glory" and puff out his chest. It's a shame to trash a shirt. Do you have a suggestion as to what I might do with such an item?

DONATING IN FLORIDA

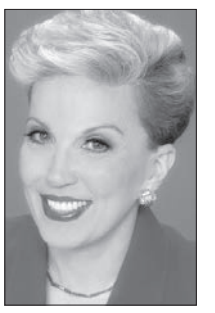
DEAR DONATING: Because of your concerns about stolen glory, consider using the T-shirt(s) for house cleaning. However, if you cannot bring yourself to do that, donate the item to a homeless shelter and consider it publicizing a worthy cause that needs more attention.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

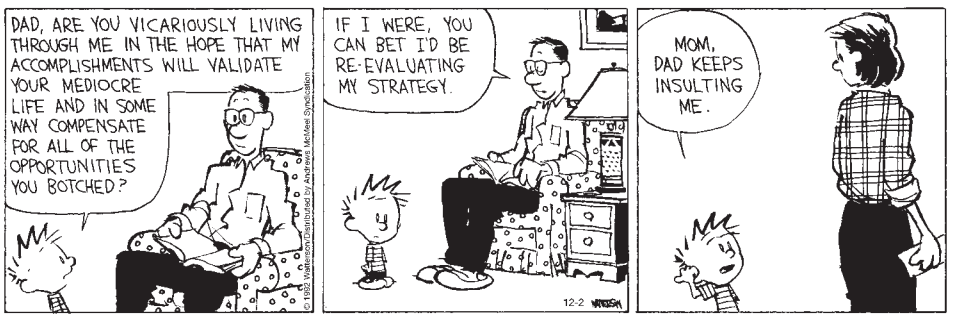


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

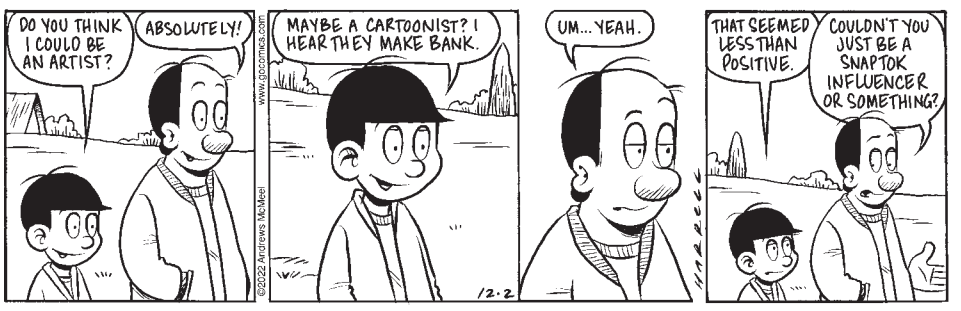

DAD, ARE YOU VICARIOUSLY LIVING THROUGH ME IN THE HOPE THAT MY ACCOMPLISHMENTS WILL VALIDATE YOUR MEDIOCRE LIFE AND IN SOME WAY COMPENSATE FOR ALL OF THE OPPORTUNITIES YOU BOTCHED?
IF I WERE, YOU CAN BET I'D BE RE-EVALUATING MY STRATEGY.
MOM, DAD KEEPS INSULTING ME.
12-2

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

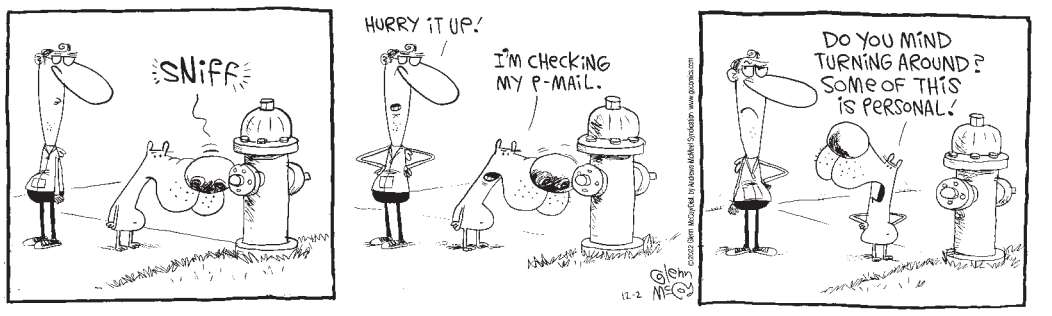
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


DO YOU THINK I COULD BE AN ARTIST?
ABSOLUTELY!
MAYBE A CARTOONIST? I HEAR THEY MAKE BANK.
UM... YEAH.
THAT SEEMED LESS THAN POSITIVE.
COULDN'T YOU JUST BE A SNAPTOK INFLUENCER OR SOMETHING?
12-2

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Lobbyists' org.
4 Twinkler in the sky
8 Pitt of "Money-ball"
12 Air safety org.
13 Plane-related
14 Occupy the throne
15 Happy-go-lucky
17 Detail
18 Paradise
19 Joe of "Good-Fellas"
20 Luau dances
22 Young cow
24 Utah city
25 Song birds
29 Insult
30 Business wear
31 Music booster
32 Gathering
34 — Valley, Calif.
35 Campus area
36 Jack who ate no fat
37 Portly
40 Oil cartel
41 PBS science show
42 Parting words
46 "— a Kick Out of You"
47 Deserve
48 Hogwash
49 Ripped (up)
50 Yonder item
51 Lamb's mama

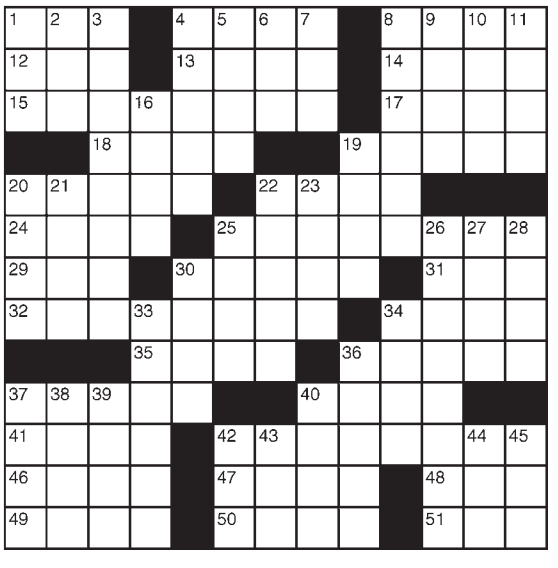
DOWN

1 USMC rank
2 Bond rating
3 Lax
4 Vaults
5 Shore bird
6 "— you kidding?"
7 Caviar base
8 Legal filings
9 Trench-es
10 Sir Guinness
11 Ms. Moore
16 Dutch cheese
19 Asset
20 Kotb of "Today"
21 "The Haj" author
22 Chef Julia
23 Bohe-mian
25 Hefty horn
26 Clairol's business
27 Austen heroine
28 Roasting rod
30 Lewd material
33 Regard as identical
34 Detail, briefly
36 Exhaust-ed
37 Peevish fit
38 Takeout request
39 Ex-ceeding
40 Gumbo veggie
42 Hanoi holiday
43 Con-tented sound
44 Squab-ble
45 Summer in Arles

Solution time: 25 mins.

W	A	F	T		S	R	I		P	T	A	S	
A	C	L	U		T	I	M		R	O	M	O	
I	T	E	M		A	M	P		I	P	A	D	
T	I	E	B	A	R		U	D	O	N			
			L	I	T	T	L	E	R	O	C	K	
D	E	T	E	R		O	S	E		T	H	Y	
E	R	R	S		E	W	E		S	C	A	R	
A	G	A		A	R	E		M	E	H	T	A	
R	O	C	K	G	A	R	D	E	N				
		T	A	T	S		I	N	S	I	D	E	
F	A	I	R		U	P	S		O	D	I	N	
O	B	O	E		R	O	C		R	E	E	D	
G	U	N	N		E	D	S		Y	A	M	S	

Yesterday's answer 12-2



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Aaron Rodgers, 39; Britney Spears, 41; Monica Seles, 49; Rena Sofer, 54.

Happy Birthday: Keep your facts straight. Don't let your plans overwhelm you or your desires lead you astray. Look at what's possible and take a simple and direct approach to get you to your destination without question or concern. Have a plan that emphasizes your attributes and compensates for your weaknesses. Play by the rules, and don't stop until you feel appeased. Your numbers are 4, 10, 17, 23, 32, 36, 40.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Check your investments and essential documents and make updates. Learn from the experience you gain, and don't make physical changes that aren't necessary or well thought out. Pay attention to detail, and when in doubt, pause. It's better to be safe than sorry. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put more thought into your plans. Don't be too eager to spend on something you don't need or to make an impression on someone you want to get to know better or work alongside. Honesty and hard work are the best policies. ✪✪✪s

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* You may want to help others, but don't let anyone take advantage of your generosity. Make plans with someone you enjoy spending time with, and together you will devise a plan that will make your life easier. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Check your emotions before you share opinions. The less you say, the easier it will be to get things done. Focus on what brings the most joy. Make creative endeavors a priority, and focus on being original. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Your generous nature will attract attention and the help you need to get things done. Mix business with pleasure, and you'll seal a deal that will add to your stability financially and professionally. Celebrate with someone special. Romance is encouraged.✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Step outside your comfort zone to get things done right and without interference. Verify what others say before you use the information or pass it along. Be cautious of offers that sound too good to be true. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* You'll be anxious to get moving. Whether you travel, learn something new or spend time with people who have something interesting to offer, you will find it easier to get ahead and get your way. Patience and time will pay off. 3 stars

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Keep an eye on shared expenses or investments. Don't spend what you don't have or pay for other people's mistakes. Refuse to let anyone tempt you by using fancy words or making outlandish promises. Put your money and possessions in a safe place. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Do your best to get along. Listen attentively but share only the information that isn't controversial or political. Take care of your responsibilities and pay attention to what's happening at home. Nurture meaningful relationships and make romance a priority. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Slow down; don't act in haste. Time is on your side, and with a bit of thought, you'll come up with a unique and bountiful proposition. Be secretive regarding your plans in order to avoid interference from outside influences. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Times are changing, and so are you. Pick up the slack, take care of business and make room for something you deem meaningful. A positive attitude will help you turn what you love to do into a lucrative pastime. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* You are better off observing than participating. Put your energy where it counts. Make changes at home that will give you a reason to entertain or use your space for something that is helpful and makes you feel good about your contribution. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intelligent, entertaining and fortuitous. You are dynamic and energetic.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

3	9				8		4	7
	5		7	3	4		6	
5		8				7		
		7				2		
		3				6		9
	3		5	9	7		1	
1	4		8				7	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/02

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	7	6	3	1	8	9	4	2
3	1	4	7	2	9	5	8	6
2	9	8	5	4	6	1	3	7
1	4	9	2	5	3	6	7	8
6	8	5	9	7	4	3	2	1
7	2	3	8	6	1	4	5	9
4	3	7	1	9	2	8	6	5
9	6	2	4	8	5	7	1	3
8	5	1	6	3	7	2	9	4

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

THINKING OF THE OUTDOORS Solution: 9 letters

T	W	C	A	T	T	L	E	C	I	L	O	C	U	B
R	R	L	S	P	R	I	N	G	N	I	H	S	I	F
E	L	I	D	L	E	I	F	L	O	W	E	R	S	P
E	A	M	P	U	M	P	K	I	N	A	D	E	T	E
H	N	A	I	V	N	P	E	E	H	S	E	R	N	A
O	D	T	N	B	E	I	T	E	S	R	R	U	A	C
U	R	E	N	O	R	G	A	S	U	T	F	T	L	E
S	A	T	A	A	C	A	E	T	T	F	O	A	P	F
E	Y	R	C	T	A	N	L	T	N	R	A	N	R	U
M	E	A	L	A	R	U	R	L	A	U	E	R	E	L
E	N	V	E	E	C	H	C	A	E	B	O	A	M	E
A	I	E	D	I	S	A	E	S	O	I	L	M	M	A
D	V	L	R	A	I	N	B	O	W	S	L	E	U	V
O	I	G	E	L	P	P	A	N	I	M	A	L	S	E
W	A	T	E	R	F	R	O	N	T	E	S	N	U	S

© 2022 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 12/2

Acre, Agriculture, Animals, Apple, Beach, Birds, Boat, Bucolic, Cattle, Climate, Farm, Field, Fishing, Flowers, Land, Leaves, Meadow, Mountain, Nature, Peaceful, Pinnacle, Plants, Pumpkin, Rainbows, Rural, Seaside, Sheep, Soil, Spring, Stone, Stream, Summer, Sunset, Travel, Treehouse, Trip, Vegetables, Vineyard, Waterfront, Wilderness

Yesterday's Answer: Percentages

Purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 56 through 70,** in time for the holidays at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Messi and Argentina advance at World Cup, beat Poland 2-0

DOHA, Qatar (AP)— Rest easy, soccer fans. Lionel Messi will grace the World Cup stage at least one more time.

The Argentina great had a penalty saved but his team still beat Poland 2-0 Wednesday after second-half goals from Alexis Mac Allister and Julian Alvarez and advanced to the last 16.

After opening the World Cup with a shocking 2-1 loss to Saudi Arabia in one of biggest upsets in the tournament's history, Argentina wound up finishing in first place in Group C and will next play Australia — a surprise qualifier for the knockout stage.

Messi rolls into Saturday's game suddenly in a strong position in likely his final World Cup.

"Now another World Cup begins." Messi said, "and hopefully we can continue to do what we did today."

As for Poland, it was ultimately a happy night, too, because the team went through as the group's second-place team — on goal difference ahead of Mexico — and will next play defending champion France.

Messi ended up relieved after failing to score a penalty for the second straight World Cup. It was awarded after he was hit in the face by the flailing hand of Poland goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny, who made amends by diving to his left to block Messi's kick in the 39th minute.

"I'm upset that I missed the penalty, but the team came back stronger after my error," he said.

A largely pro-Argentina crowd, waving flags and scarfs and beating drums behind both goals, had been sweeping Messi and his team along at the 44,000-seat Stadium 974 and they didn't stop after the penalty. Within seconds, a chant of "MESSI! MESSI!" immediately reverberated around the venue in a bid to keep their idol's head high.

And the roars were even louder at the start of the second half, first after Mac Allister's goal — a scruffy finish from Nahuel Molina's cut-back from the right — in the first minute and soon after as news filtered through that Mexico had taken the lead against Saudi Arabia, which started the day in third place.

Playing an Argentine-record 22nd World Cup game, Messi never stopped surging forward and he was a menace all game to Poland with his dribbling ability and vision. One 40-meter solo run saw him weave past three opponents, drift past another only to miskick as he took aim.

The match was billed as a head-to-head between Messi and Poland striker Robert Lewandowski, perhaps the best center forward in the world, but it proved to be a mismatch.

"If Messi played with us and Robert played for Argentina, Robert would have scored five goals," Poland coach Czeslaw Michniewicz said. "Robert needs to be helped and the match was only played in our half."

Messi wasn't involved in either goal, though. For the second, Enzo Fernandez scooped a pass to Alvarez — starting ahead of regular striker Lautaro Martinez — and he took one touch before curling his shot into the top corner in the 67th minute.

Things couldn't have gone better for Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni, who made more bold changes in bringing in Alvarez, Fernandez and Molina and seeing them play a part in the goals. Mac Allister, meanwhile, didn't start against Saudi Arabia and has added energy in midfield in the two games since.

Suddenly, Argentina looks more like the team which entered the World Cup on a 36-match unbeaten run and as one of the tournament favorites, a year after winning the Copa America.

AP

Argentina's Lionel Messi smiles during the World Cup group C soccer match between Poland and Argentina at the Stadium 974 in Doha, Qatar, Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2022.

Australia 1, Denmark 0

In Wakrah, Qatar, Australian soccer may have a new golden generation.

Mathew Leckie scored and the Socceroos beat Denmark 1-0 Wednesday to advance to the round of 16 at the World Cup for only the second time.

"I'm just so proud we've been able to put smiles on people's faces," coach Graham Arnold said, noting this is the first Australian team to win two straight games at a World Cup. "Maybe we're talking about a new golden generation."

The last Socceroos team to earn that honor got Australia into the knockout stage in 2006. This team did it again, and Arnold believes the achievement is worthy of a national holiday.

"Give the people a day off," he said. "I think there will be some hangovers and some joy."

The leader of the new generation could be Leckie, who took a pass near the center circle from Riley McGree in the 60th minute and moved around a defender before hitting a left-footed shot past Denmark goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel.

"I went left and swang the left foot," Leckie said, who was then mobbed by his teammates on the field and off the bench. "I think I got slapped in the head about 100 times."

Now Leckie wants more.

"We want to dream big," he said. "I think the key was when we came to this tournament we always said we wanted to get out of the group. And now we've done that. Now the most important thing is to get ourselves ready because we worked super hard tonight. I think most of the boys are exhausted. That's exactly what we needed to do to get a result today."

Australia finished with six points in Group D. Defending champion France won the group on goal difference despite losing to Tunisia 1-0 in the other group match.

The World Cup proved to be a major disappointment for Denmark after reaching the semifinals at last year's 2020 European Championship. They slogged through a 0-0 draw in their opening match with Tunisia and then recovered in a 2-1 loss to France.

Mexico 2, Saudi Arabia 1

In Lusail, Qatar, for a long time after the final whistle, Luis Chavez crouched on the field in anguish.

He had just scored in Mexico's furious attempt to stay alive at the World Cup, but the 2-1 victory Wednesday over Saudi Arabia wasn't enough. Because of Argentina's 2-0 victory over Poland in a simultaneous match, Mexico failed to advance out of its group for the first time since 1978.

"We had a chance to qualify," Chavez said glumly. "We didn't achieve it."

Mexico had reached the knockout round at the last seven World Cups, second only to Brazil, which has gone through to the round of 16 since 1986.

El Tri went into the match at Lusail Stadium needing both a victory and help from Poland playing across town against Argentina to advance in Group C. Argentina's victory meant goal difference came into play — and Mexico didn't have enough of them.

Henry Martin scored in the 48th minute to give El Tri hope, and the team's chances got even better with Chavez's goal on a free kick four minutes later.

Mexico tried desperately in the final 20 minutes to get another goal — including an effort by Uriel Antuna in the 87th minute that was ruled offside — but came up short.

"We needed one more goal. I didn't know exactly what happened at the end," said veteran Mexico goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa, who was playing in his fifth World Cup. "For us, the object was to score three or four goals. It's a shame."

Salem Aldawsari scored in second-half stoppage time for Saudi Arabia, which was eliminated along with Mexico despite beating Argentina in its opening match.

Martin's goal ended Mexico's 431-minute scoring drought at the World Cup, dating back to their second group match at the 2018 tournament in Russia. It was the team's longest ever stretch without a goal at the tournament.

Mexico opened the tournament in Qatar with a 0-0 draw against Poland and but fell 2-0 to Lionel Messi and Argentina.

Mexico hadn't been eliminated from the group stage since the World Cup in Argentina 44 years ago. El Tri didn't qualify for the 1982 World Cup in Spain, and was banned from the 1990 event in Italy for using overage players at an under-20 tournament.

"I must say that I assume all the responsibility for this massive failure," Mexico coach Garardo "Tata" Martino said.

Mexico advanced to the round of 16 in its last seven appearances — but no further. El Tri came to Qatar looking to play in an elusive "quinto partido" — a fifth game — for the first time since Mexico hosted the tournament in 1986.

Saudi Arabia had one of the tournament's biggest ever upsets ever when it beat Argentina 2-1. But the Green Falcons couldn't pull off another surprise in its second match, a 2-0 loss to Poland.

The Saudis reached the round of 16 back in 1994, the team's World Cup debut, but haven't made it past the group stage since.

Tunisia 1, France 0

In Al Rayyan, Qatar, as France searched for a late equalizer, the players on Tunisia's bench were watching another World Cup match on TV hoping for a goal.

Neither of them came, giving Tunisia a momentous 1-0 win over defending champion France that still wasn't enough to prevent the north African team from being eliminated.

Wahbi Khazri scored in the 58th minute Wednesday to lead Tunisia to only its third victory at a World Cup tournament. But in stoppage time, the Tunisians on the sidelines were more interested in the other Group D game, crowding around a TV screen on the bench hoping Denmark would be able to score against Australia — a circumstance that would have lifted Tunisia into second place and also into the round of 16 in Qatar.

"We were praying for a Denmark goal but it never game," Khazri said. "But that's the thing with soccer, you should only count on yourself. We didn't do enough in the first two games, otherwise we'd be through."

France ended up winning the group with six points, ahead of Australia on goal difference. Tunisia finished with four points in third place. Denmark, which lost to Australia 1-0, ended up in last place with one point.

It was France's first loss at the World Cup since the 2014 quarterfinals, when Germany beat the team 1-0.

Khazri broke the deadlock early in the second half, running at the heart of the French defense and beating two players before poking the ball into the bottom corner.

He fell to his knees in celebration and was mobbed by teammates. When he got back up, he made a heart shape to the Tunisian fans behind the goal and then limped off, appearing to hurt himself as he fell when scoring his 25th international goal and his third at World Cups.

France forward Antoine Griezmann thought he had evened the score in the eighth minute of stoppage time but he was ruled offside following a video review.

A few minutes after Khazri's goal, a man ran onto the field at Education City Stadium with what appeared to be a Palestinian flag. He did some acrobatic jumps before six security officials dragged him off.

With France already qualified for the knockout stage, coach Didier Deschamps rested Griezmann, Kylian Mbappé and most of his regular starters. Only four of the team lining up at the beginning had even started a World Cup match before.

"It will be a good lesson for them. Now they know what the highest level is all about, against a Tunisia team that was supercharged," Deschamps said. "But we were too timid, late in the tackle and made technical errors."

Deschamps defended his decision further, saying his team's sizeable goal difference over Australia was enough of a safety net.

"We didn't need one point," he said. "Unless something catastrophic happened (in the other game)."

Devin Booker hits for 51, fuels Suns' rout of Bulls

PHOENIX (AP)— Devin Booker made the Chicago Bulls pay for some mediocre defense with a couple early mid-range jumpers. Then he made a few more. And a few more.

Suddenly, it was one of those nights for the Suns All-Star guard.

"It felt like a double-sized rim out there," Booker said. "If I rise up, it's going in."

Booker scored a season-high 51 points in just three quarters, Deandre Ayton had 30 points and 14 rebounds and Phoenix stretched its winning streak to six games with a 132-113 victory Wednesday night.

Booker scored 25 points in the first half and had 26 more in a sublime third quarter that included 10 of 11 shooting. After a contested 3-pointer splashed through the net, "MVP! MVP!" chants broke out across Footprint Center, and the 26-year-old is certainly making an early season case.

"It's the best," Booker said about the home crowd. "I don't know how many sell-out crowds that is in a row, but it's impressive. Mondays, Tuesdays, Saturdays, it doesn't matter what day of the week it is. They show up and show out."

The three-time All-Star had a steal late in the third before sprinting downcourt and flushing home a dunk for his 50th and 51st points. He added six assists and four rebounds.

"A guy like that gets in a rhythm and it's too late," Bulls guard Zach LaVine said. "He gets it going and it's over."

Booker didn't play in the fourth quarter with the Suns holding a healthy lead.

Even more remarkable than Booker's point total was his efficiency. He shot 20 of 25 from the field, going 6 of 7 from 3-point range. He is the second player over the last 25 years with 50 points and 80% shooting through the first three quarters of a game, joining James Harden in 2017, according to ESPN Stats and Info.

"There's not a level where he can't score," Suns coach Monty Williams said. "He can use both hands, he can score with a hand in his face and he's willing to take the tough shots."

It was Booker's second straight 40-point game. He had 44 in a victory at Sacramento on Monday night. The Suns have the best record in the Western Conference at 15-6 and have won 12 out of 13 home games.

The Bulls struggled on defense the entire night, particularly against Booker and Ayton. Chicago coach Billy Donovan was particularly irritated in the third quarter, angrily calling a time out after Phoenix scored a couple easy buckets.

AP

Phoenix Suns guard Devin Booker, left, drives past Chicago Bulls forward Patrick Williams (44) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Phoenix, Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2022.

DeMar DeRozan led Chicago with 29 points. Zach LaVine added 21.

Lakers 128, Trail Blazers 109

In Los Angeles, LeBron James had 31 points, eight assists and seven rebounds, Austin Reaves added a season-high 22 points and Los Angeles rebounded from a heartbreaking loss with a victory over Portland.

Anthony Davis had 27 points and 12 rebounds in the Lakers' sixth victory in eight games. Los Angeles shook off a gut-wrenching loss to Indiana in which it blew a late 17-point lead by taking an 18-point lead early in the fourth against Portland and holding on comfortably to beat a team with a winning record for the first time since Nov. 2.

James hit six 3-pointers while going 12 for 18 from the field in an outstanding performance by the second-leading scorer in NBA history, while Russell Westbrook hit buzzer-beating 3-pointers to end the second and third quarters on the way to 10 points.

Damian Lillard missed his sixth straight game with a strained calf muscle for the Blazers, who have lost seven of eight overall. Jerami Grant scored 27 points, Anfernee Simons had 22 and Justise Winslow added a season-high 21.

Nuggets 120, Rockets 100

In Denver, Jamal Murray scored 26 points, Nikola Jokic had 10 of his 12 assists in the first half and Denver won its fourth straight by beating Houston.

Jokic added 17 points and nine rebounds in just 27 minutes. Aaron Gordon scored 20 points and Bruce Brown had 18 for Denver, which never trailed in beating Houston for the second time in three days.

Kevin Porter Jr. scored 23 points and Alperen Sengun had 18 points and 11 rebounds for the Rockets, who fell behind 6-0 and 13-2 and trailed by as many as 33 points.

The Nuggets built a 74-47 halftime lead with Jokic taking just two shots. He instead spent most of the half passing to Murray and other open teammates for easy buckets.

Jazz 125, Clippers 112

In Salt Lake City, Jordan Clarkson had a season-high 33 points and five assists, and Utah snapped a five-game losing streak.

Collin Sexton added 21 points, six rebounds and six assists for the Jazz. Lauri Markkanen chipped in 23 points and nine rebounds. Jarred Vanderbilt added 14 points and 12 rebounds.

John Wall finished with a season-high 26 points off the bench to lead Los Angeles. Reggie Jackson added 15 points for the Clippers, who lost despite outscoring Utah 65-22 in bench points.

Celtics 134, Heat 121

In Boston, Jayson Tatum had eight 3-pointers and scored a season-high 49 points, and Boston held off hot-shooting Miami.

Tatum scored the Celtics' first six points and had 41 points after three quarters. He finished 15 of 25 from the field, 8 of 12 from 3-point range and 11 of 12 from the line. He also grabbed 11 rebounds.

Jaylen Brown finished with 26 points following a one-game absence due to neck stiffness. Malcolm Brogdon added 21 points, connecting on five of Boston's 22 3-pointers in the game. Boston shot 55% (46 for 83) and has won five straight and 14 of its last 15.

Max Strus finished with 23 points and five 3-pointers for the Heat. Bam Adebayo also added 23 points before being ejected in the closing seconds following a pair of technical fouls. Miami, which shot 52% (47 for 90) overall, was 18 of 40 from beyond the arc.

Bucks 109, Knicks 103

In New York, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 37 points, 13 rebounds and seven assists, and Grayson Allen made the tiebreaking 3-pointer with 30 seconds left after his superstar teammate fouled out, leading Milwaukee past New York.

Allen made only one 3-pointer, but it was the only one the Bucks needed after Antetokounmpo had carried them for so long.

He fouled out with a minute left and the Bucks leading by two. Mitchell Robinson made one free throw and the Knicks got the rebound when he missed the second, leading to a free throw by Jalen Brunson that tied it with 47 seconds remaining. After Allen's 3-pointer, RJ Barrett missed a 3 for the Knicks and the Bucks closed it out from the free throw line.

Jrue Holiday had 22 points, six rebounds and five assists for the Bucks.

Barrett scored 26 points, Julius Randle added 18 and Brunson had 17 for the Knicks.

Kings 137, Pacers 114

In Sacramento, Calif., Harrison Barnes and Malik Monk each scored 22 points and Sacramento beat Indiana to snap a three-game losing streak.

Prior to the three-game skid, the Kings had won seven straight games and are off to their best 20-game start since the 2004-05 season. The Kings were 14-6 that year. Domantas Sabonis had 11 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists. De'Aaron Fox added 19 points.

Jalen Smith and Bennedict Mathurin both scored 22 points for Indiana (12-9).

Buddy Hield scored 17 points. Tyrese Haliburton finished with nine points and 10 rebounds.

Nets 113, Wizards 107

In New York, Kevin Durant scored 39 points and Brooklyn extended its winning streak to three games by beating Washington.

Durant was 13 for 20 from the field and hit all 11 of his free throws in 37 minutes after scoring a season-high 45 points Monday night in a victory over Orlando.

Kyrie Irving added 27 points and Joe Harris had 14. Brooklyn has won five in a row at home.

Kristaps Porzingis had 27 points and 19 rebounds for Washingon. Bradley Beal and Kyle Kuzma each had 25 points for the Wizards, who have lost four of their last five games.

Pelicans 126, Raptors 108

In New Orleans, Zion Williamson had 33 points, four steals and two blocks, and Trey Murphy added six 3-pointers and 26 points as New Orleans beat Toronto.

The Pelicans shot 52.3% from the floor on 45-of-86 shooting, had 28 assists and led by as many as 31 points midway through the third quarter.

Four other Pelicans scored in double figures: Jonas Valanciunas had 16 points and 13 rebounds, rookie Dyson Daniels added 14 points and nine assists, Herb Jones had 12 points and Larry Nance Jr. 10.

Toronto was led by Gary Trent Jr., who scored 35 points, and Pascal Siakam with 23.

Cavaliers 113, 76ers 85

In Cleveland, Caris LeVert scored 22 points off the bench, Darius Garland had 21 points and nine assist and Cleveland routed Philadelphia.

Donovan Mitchell added 18 points and six assists for Cleveland, which led by a season-high 33 points in the fourth quarter. The Cavaliers are 9-1 at Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse, the third-best home mark in the NBA.

All-Star center Joel Embiid led Philadelphia across the board with 19 points, six rebounds and six assists, and Shake Milton scored 14 points. The 76ers had their three-game win streak snapped in the opener of a three-game trip.

Philadelphia's starting backcourt of All-Star James Harden and Tyrese Maxey remains out with injuries. The Cavaliers played without All-Star center Jarrett Allen, who missed his third consecutive game with a low back bruise.

Timberwolves 109, Grizzlies 101

In Minneapolis, Anthony Edwards had 29 points, five steals and three blocks to lead Minnesota over Memphis in the first game of an extended absence for injured Timberwolves star Karl-Anthony Towns.

Jaylen Nowell added 24 points off the bench and D'Angelo Russell had 15 points and 10 assists for the Timberwolves, who forced a season-high 27 turnovers by the Grizzlies and snapped a three-game losing streak despite being outrebounded 59-29 in a sloppy but spirited matchup.

Ja Morant scored 24 points and Jaren Jackson Jr. had 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Grizzlies, who lost their cool down the stretch with successive ejections for Dillon Brooks and Morant. Grizzlies rookie David Roddy finished 13 points and five rebounds in his native city.

Hawks 125, Magic 108

In Orlando, Fla., Trae Young had 30 points and 14 assists and Atlanta snapped a three-game losing streak with a win over Orlando.

Dejounte Murray added 27 points and Clint Capela finished with 20 points and 12 rebounds after a dominating first quarter in which Atlanta built an 11-point lead.

Franz Wagner had 22 points and six rebounds for Orlando, which lost its sixth straight. Paolo Banchero added 20 points and five assists.

Led by Capel and Jarrett Culver (12 rebounds), Atlanta had a 49-33 rebound advantage.

Thunder 119, Spurs 111

In Oklahoma City, rookie Jalen Williams scored a season-high 27 points and Oklahoma City overcame a 20-point second-half deficit to hand San Antonio its ninth straight loss.

Lu Dort scored 23 points and Josh Giddey added 14 points and 14 rebounds for the Thunder. Oklahoma City guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, the league's No. 3 scorer with 31.1 points per game, sat out with a bruised hip.

Devin Vassell scored 25 points and Keldon Johnson added 19 for the Spurs.

MHS, SIS defeat foes in HS boys soccer

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Marianas High School and Saipan International School boys varsity soccer teams both won their matches last Tuesday during the continuation of the NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

MHS is now undefeated and atop the standings with four wins after their brother junior varsity team lost against them via forfeit, while SIS silenced Mount Carmel School, 4-0.

The Geckos' Daniel Nam opened the game in the 12th minute as the Knights still fumbled with their footing. In the meantime, Nam's teammate, Ian Song, scored a goal five minutes later for a 2-0 lead.

Song then sang the same old song not three minutes later for the Geckos' third goal, while the fourth and last goal went the way the first goal came—by way of Nam's cleats.

The Geckos are in second place with a 3-1-1 card, while the Knights are in fourth place with a 2-2 record behind Saipan Southern High School's 2-1-1 card.

With the forfeit, MHS junior varsity is now out of playoff contention, while SSHS junior varsity have yet to win with three losses.

LEIGH GASES

Saipan International School's Ian Song scored two goals in their game against Mount Carmel Schoo in the NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League last Tuesday at the Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Hardware offers $1K ETC in Holiday Half Marathon

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Hong Ye Hardware is making available $1,000 worth of Educational Tax Credits for schools that get the most tickets for this year's Run Saipan Holiday Half Marathon and 5.5K Fun Run.

Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. said all finishers will receive a ticket at the end of the race that they can use to support a local school. Schools with the highest sponsorship will win $500, second receives $350, and the third most tickets take home $150.

"I can't thank them enough for opening this contest with our event. It's amazing to see companies outside the health and wellness department give incentives for the community to come out and be active," said Dela Cruz.

The Dec. 10 Run Saipan Holiday Half Marathon is a point-to-point 21K race from Sugar Dock to Banzai Cliff on Saipan, while the 5.5K Fun Run, which will be held simultaneously, is in honor of Atkins Kroll's 55-year legacy of serving the people of the Marianas.

Dela Cruz is encouraging all public and private schools on Saipan to sign up their students and faculty to the Run Saipan Holiday Half Marathon for a chance to get ETC.

"Good luck to all the schools. I challenged all the school principals and vice principals and Board of Education members to take the lead for health and wellness on Dec. 10. Run Saipan can't wait to see you all at the finish line. The schools can participate in either event. They just cast their sponsorship at the finish line like a ballot box."

Both races will be fully sanctioned competitive races by Northern Marianas Athletics, an official member of World Athletics the regulatory body of track and field.

Run Saipan also thanked event supporters NMA, Saipan International School, and Marianas Visitors Authority. The community is invited to attend the races and cheer on runners.

For more information about the races, contact Run Saipan secretary/treasurer Ron Snyder at runsaipan@gmail.com.

NMI

From Page 28

alongside a chance for residents to witness world-class badminton—made even more exciting by the fact that both tournaments fall within the Paris 2024 Olympic Games qualification period, which starts on May 1, 2023.

The Northern Mariana Islands is a territory of the United States, sitting within Micronesia—a collection of islands in the northwest region of Oceania, also including Guam (another member association of Badminton Oceania), Palau, the Marshall Island and the Federated States of Micronesia.

"This is a fantastic development for our Pacific region and it is exciting to see our long-term goal, to host an international tournament in the region outside of Australia or New Zealand, come to life. To have two back-to-back tournaments in less than a year since hosting the Pacific Mini Games is an incredible legacy achievement. It is also testament to the highly motivated and organized team at Northern Marianas Badminton Association who have inspired several pathways to grow the sport across their country," Badminton Oceania CEO Julie Carrel said.

Some of Badminton Oceania's technical officials and staff attended the Pacific Mini Games and Carrel said they were all thoroughly impressed by the high standards imposed throughout the Games. She added that Badminton Oceania cannot wait for more opportunities to collaborate and welcome players from all over the world to this unique part of Oceania.

Meanwhile, NMBA president Merlie Tolentino said the NMI badminton community is excited to host the two international competitions.

"After we made history in June this year by hosting the Pacific Mini Games and winning the NMI's first medal in a regional competition, the NMBA is highly motivated to ride on this momentum and make more accomplishments for NMI badminton. Now, with two BWF-sanctioned tournaments scheduled to take place in our island next year, we are looking at reaching more milestones. We will be the first in Micronesia to host a BWF event. We are again presented with the opportunity to witness high-level competitions, while our own athletes will also have a chance to challenge highly skilled players. Additionally, hosting the Northern Marianas Open and Saipan International will support the NMI's sports tourism campaign, as we are looking to welcome players and officials from the Pacific, Oceania, Asia, and hopefully from some other continents too," Tolentino said.

"Thank you Badminton Oceania for helping us bring these prestigious competitions to the NMI. We are excited and honored with this great opportunity and are looking forward to getting support from our community as we work together in hosting another successful sports event and showcasing our island hospitality," Tolentino added.

Both tournaments will join Badminton Oceania's reputable collection of Grade Three tournaments, including the North Harbour International 2023 (Oct. 25-29) and others which will be announced soon.

Also scheduled to take place in Oceania next year are two HSBC BWF World Tour tournaments—Australia Open 2023 (Super 500, from Aug. 1 to 6) and New Zealand Open 2023 (Super 300, from Aug. 8 to 13).

Keep up to date with the latest information by following us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/BOC.badminton and visiting the 2023 Events page on our website https://badminton-oceania.org/. ***(PR)***

LEGENDS

From Page 28

former, however, took the win after taking the second heat. Dave Celis was third with 40 points.

Ethan Yumul, meanwhile, lorded it over in the Novice Class after winning both heats for 50 points. Guam's Kanen Arceo was second with 42 points and Aric Cruz third with 37 points.

In the Big Boy ATV Class, Christian "Hollywood" Camacho showed how it's done by again sweeping both heats for 50 points. Guam's James Lujan and Pier Banes came second and third with 42 points and 36 points, respectively.

Guam won the Mini ATV Class with Lorenzo Gavin topping both races for 50 points. Anella Igitol was second with 40 points, while Kassidy Camacho was third with 37 points.

The Peewee ATV Class was topped by Rockson Cabrera after breaking his tie with Giancarlo Lorenzo. Both came away with 47 points, but Cabrera won the second heat for the trophy. Brooklynn Susulin came third with 38 points.

In all, CNMI riders won nine of the 14 divisions in the Turkey Cross Race.

SSHS

From Page 28

scored 1.

In the first game of the night, the Marianas High School Lady Dolphins went up against a formidable Grace Christian Academy Lady Eagles lineup and came out unscathed by defeating them, 45-27, and handing GCA's first loss of the season.

Small in stature but big with her hops—Destiny Pangelinan put the word basket in basketball as she navigated through a much larger Lady Eagles defense, scoring 17 of her team's points.

Teammate Marielle Lopez was right in her heels as she shot 14 points, while Angellyn Roligat scored 5, Kalista Klaver scored 4, and Loralyle and Helenor Ogumoro scored 2 each.

Even as high-flying Lady Eagle Azriel Fatialofa, who is the leading scorer of the team, shot 11 points she couldn't help GCA catch up with the Lady Dolphins as they swam through their defenses with relative ease.

Teammates Soleil Lamar scored 9, Katriel Saures scored 4, Vicky Wang scored 2, and Hannah Tenorio scored a free throw.

NMI national team-studded Mount Carmel School lineup made it past Agape Christian School in a close 33-30 game, after coming back from a first half deficit of 12 points and then defeating them in OT.

Knights' Mia Abuan and Valerie Estella shone through as they led the team with 9 points each, while Asa Backe shot 8, Chealzka Navarro made 4 points, and Kayannie Peter scored 3 points.

Eunice Xu bore the torch for Agape as she led them with 13 points, but their light wavered as the Knights pulled up from behind to tie up the second half, 29-29.

In the end, teammate Susie Zheng scored 6, Lynn Zhao scored 4, Ruth Zhang, Esther Xu, and Sunny Wang scored 2 each, and Priscilla Cheng scored 1, as they fell to the Knights by just 3 points.

In other results from last Nov. 19, ACS defeated Tinian Jr. High School junior varsity team, 39-8; GCA defeated Tinian's varsity team, 41-31; SSHS beat Tinian's junior varsity team, 39-9; and Tinian's varsity team won against MCS, 21-14.

In the Nov. 18 game, KHS won their first game of the season against Tinian's varsity team, 38-14; MHS defeated Tinian's junior varsity team, 27-5; and ACS defeated Tinian's varsity team, 35-23.

The IT&E Interscholastic Girls High School Basketball League is being run by the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation.

SSHS 30 - Younis 14, Ramos 11, Sagarino, Calage 2, Sablan 1.

KHS 16 – Tudela 11, Aughenbaugh 3, Camacho 2.

Scoring by halves: 13-6, 30-16.

MHS 45 – Pangelinan 17, Lopez 15, Roligat 5, Klaver 4, L. Ogumoro 2, H. Ogumoro 2.

GCA 27 – Fatialofa 11, Lamar 9, Saures 4, Wang 2, Tenorio 1.

Scoring by halves: 19-12; 45-27.

MCS 33 – Abuan 9, Estella 9, Backe 8, Navarro 4, Peter 3.

ACS 30 – Eunice Xu 13, Zheng 6, Zhao 4, Zhang, Esther Xu, and Wang 2, Cheng 1.

Scoring by halves: 6-18, 29-29, 33-30.

Oleai, Finasisu split games in boys 13

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Oleai and Finasisu split their head-to-head matchup in the boys 13 division of the 2022 Marianas Village Pride Basketball League last weekend at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai.

On Saturday, Oleai routed Finasisu, 58-45, as Raffy Cai exploded for 26 points to lead the team. Jairus Pangelinan's 16 points paced Finasisu in defeat.

Finasisu, however, got back at Oleai after a good night's sleep and vanquished their erstwhile conqueror, 50-40, last Sunday in the strength of Pangelinan's 20 points. Oleai, which played minus Cai, was led by the 16 markers of Theo Joab.

With both teams splitting their weekend matchups, Oleai and Finasisu are now at 2-3.

The first game of Saturday's tripleheader saw Tanapag improve to 4-1 in the boys 13 after beating winless Garapan, 52-27.

The last game then saw San Vicente edge Garapan, 37-32, in the women's division. The former improved to 3-1 while dropping the latter to a 3-2 slate.

Sunday's other two games had Kagman deal Dandan its first loss in the women's division following a 37-35 escape act. Both teams are now 3-1.

In the boys 18, Navy Hill also tied Chalan Kita at 2-1 in the standings after nipping their rivals, 41-37.

MARK RABAGO
Oleai's Raffy Cai goes up for a fastbreak layup against Finasisu in their boys 13 division game in the 2022 Marianas Village Pride Basketball League last Saturday at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai.

SATURDAY

Tanapag 52 – Garcia 12, Tibayan 11, Tenorio 10, Esdrelon 8, Lucero 6, Rectitud 5.

Garapan 27 – Galarse 11, Laxamana 6, Defang 2, Tenorio 2, Deleon Guerrero 2, Niric 1, McClure 1.

Scoring by halves: 21-11, 52-27.

Oleai 58 – Cai 26, D. Joab 10, T. Joab 8, Chin 6, Rayphand 4, Sauren 3.

Finasisu 45 – Pangelinan 16, John 12, Agulto 7, Duenas 6, Hirochi 4.

Scoring by halves: 26-27, 58-45.

San Vicente 37 – Pangelinan 17, Roligat 11, Ramos 7, Cabrera 2.

Garapan 32 – Flores 10, Castillo 8, Garon 5, Castillo 4, Ma. Lopez 3, Mi. Lopez 2.

Scoring by halves: 15-8, 37-32.

SUNDAY

Finasisu 50 – Pangelinan 20, Duenas 16, Teregeyo 6, John 2, Agulto 1.

Oleai 40 – T. Joab 16, Basa 9, D. Joab 9, Saures 6.

Scoring by halves: 20-26, 50-40.

Kagman 37 – Kautz 10, Travilla 10, Race 8, Younis 4, Mendoza 4.

Dandan 35 – Labausa 13, C. Camacho 8, Ramarui 4, Simiram 4, Rangamar 3, Ka. Camacho 2, Ki. Camacho 1.

Navy Hill 41 – Eugenio 11, Sanchez 11, Rizo 6, Ong 5, Carl 4, Xue 3.

Chalan Kiya 37 – H. Kapwich 14, Reyes 13, J. Kapwich 4, Aldan 2, Rangamar 2.

Scoring by halves: 17-17, 41-37.

MagaLahi Eagles Club holds hoops clinic

The Saipan MagaLahi Eagles Club, in an effort to extend its community service through sports, team building, and health and wellness, conducted a basketball clinic in partnership with MadFlex Sports last Nov. 19 at the Mt. Carmel School Gymnasium.

The event was open to children and adolescents aged 10 to 16, and 50 pre-registered children and adolescents participated.

The Fraternal Order of Eagles is the first born fraternal socio-civic organization in the Philippines. It is a movement, an idea launched by the founders to nurture the fire of brotherhood and provide service to the community. The SMEC is a certified TFOE club founded in 2021.

MadFlex Sports was founded by Dexter Tenorio with his son Derek in January 2020. It's a non-profit organization operated by Tenorio and two other partners. It was established with the aim of alleviating the anxiety of children caused by the pandemic and training budding athletes in a simple way.

The four-hour activity program was welcomed by the SMEC Eagle president Marlon Regaton, followed by an introduction of MadFlex founder Dexter Tenorio. Resource speaker, Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation president James Lee, delivered an inspirational message to the participants.

The basketball clinic was able to achieve its objectives of improving the skills learned in basketball, promoting the camaraderie and physical well-being of each participant. The program included exercises and coaching on body strengthening and conditioning, dribbling, and shooting and concluded with a demonstration game.

Certificates of participation were given out and an SMEC token was given to MadFlex Sports.

The Saipan Maga'Lahi Eagles Club would like to thank the following donors: TFOEPE Spn Guam District, SMEC, Saipan Maga Haga Lady Eagles Club, MadFlex Sports, Mt. Carmel School, RNV-Best Deal, New Changming Market, Triple R Auto Shop, RHF Marketing Services, Bourbon St. & Cafe, SuperTech, Warlee Ellama, Jun General, Ness Mendoza, Lito Marquez, Jayvee Sagum, Atoy Banting, Gerald Anicete, and Edmin Ellayda.

The Saipan Maga'lahi Eagles Club also extended its gratitude to its chartered group, Saipan Maga'Haga Lady Eagles Group, for their support as well as the parents of the participants. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A total of 50 pre-registered children and adolescents took part in the basketball clinic conducted by Saipan MagaLahi Eagles Club with the help of MadFlex Sports last Nov. 19 at the Mt. Carmel School Gymnasium.

Knights win first MS v-ball game

LEIGH GASES
A Mount Carmel School varsity volleyball player bumps the ball in their game against Francisco M. Sablan Middle School last Tuesday in the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Middle School Volleyball League 2022-2023 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Mount Carmel School Knights girls varsity volleyball team won their first game of the season against Francisco M. Sablan Middle School last Tuesday in the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Middle School Volleyball League 2022-2023 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Knights finally fixed the chink in their armor as they navigated through the waves of attack by the Napu Riders, defeating them in two tough sets, 21-10, 21-19.

The Napu Riders drowned in the points brought about by the series of unhittable serves by the Knights, allowing the Knights to pull away further to victory in the first set. The second set was a closer match as the Napu Riders regrouped and made less mistakes, but their effort was stymied by the Knights' powerful returns as they reached the game point first.

Cassidee Flores, Aubrey Quitugua, Kaitlyn Drilon, Jeein Lee, Aya Marie Santos, Hiromi Sasamoto, Patricia Matsumoto, Anjoelena Villagomez, Mia Guerrero, Maya McQuay, Hope McQuay, Alexia Rubia, Sage Villagomez, Naomi Matsumoto, and Sarah Melchor make up the Knights roster.

In other results that night, the Grace Christian Academy junior varsity team defeated FMS junior varsity in duplicate sets, 21-9, 21-9; Saipan International School junior varsity team trounced Hopwood Middle School in two close sets, 21-15, 21-18; GCA varsity beat Tanapag Middle School 21-13, 21-10; Chacha Ocean View Middle School slipped past Saipan Community School in three sets, 21-19, 17-21, 16-14; and SIS varsity team got the better of Dandan Middle School's varsity team, 21-19, 21-12.

After this game, both teams are at 1-4 in the standings. SIS varsity, GCA varsity, and HMS varsity lead the pack with their undefeated 4-0 cards; TMS is at 3-1, DMS and CCOVMS are both at 1-3, and SCS have yet to win with five losses.

Devin Booker hits for 51, fuels Suns' rout of Bulls

PAGE 25

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Oleai, Finasisu split games in boys 13

PAGE 27

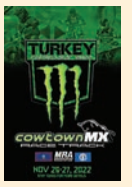
Legends didn't fall in Turkey Cross Race

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Marianas Racing Association president Charles Cepeda turned back the hands of time to top the Legends Class of last weekend's Turkey Cross Race at the Cowtown Race Track.

The Northern Marianas College Board of Regents chair won both heats en route to scoring 50 points. Dave Burger also showed off and finished runner-up with 42 points with Guam's Kim Aiken placing third with 38 points.

"The Legends Class was put together to bring those who used to race at the Old People's Park track. We had a small group on Saturday who graced current riders at the track. On Sunday even more came. It's a class where we had fun with each other. Having the opportunity to race with Kim Aiken, Steve Sablan, Patrick Cabrera, and Dave Burger was the highlight for me," said Cepeda.



The MRA president as a gesture of friendship later presented the first place trophy in the Legends Class to Aiken.

"I gave the first place trophy to Kim Aiken as a souvenir since he suggested having the class put together to see who would come," said Cepeda.

For his part, Aiken was humbled with Cepeda's gesture and said he will always consider Saipan home.

"Charles gave me his trophy and I didn't deserve it but I took it anyway out of respect. I love my island of Saipan. And it was beautiful for the race team from Guam to get to meet and race against their island brothers. The whole thing was beautiful. Seeing the kids playing together and laughing and having a good time made my heart warm," he said.

In the Veterans Class, New Zealand's Tim Wenden edged Cuki Alvarez after both finished with 47 points. The

See LEGENDS on Page 26

LAO ZHANG
Marianas Racing Association president Charles Cepeda in action in the Legends Class of last weekend's Turkey Cross Race at the Cowtown Race Track.

NMI to host 2 Paris Olympic qualifiers

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Janelle Pangilinan, left, and Jen Savellano wait for their opponent's shot during the women's doubles game in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 held last June at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Badminton Oceania and Northern Marianas Badminton Association are delighted to announce the addition of two new International Challenge tournaments to the BWF Calendar in 2023, taking place back-to-back in June.

First up is the Northern Marianas Open 2023, which will be held at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium from June 6 to 11. The second one is the Saipan International 2023, which is scheduled for June 13 to 18.

Earlier this year, the Northern Marianas hosted the 2022 Pacific Mini Games and badminton was one of nine sports included in the multi-sport program. Two NMI players—Janelle Pangilinan and Jenine Savellano—delighted the home crowd as they collected a historic first Pacific Games medal in badminton (bronze in the women's doubles), while a network of local personnel was upskilled in event management, administration, umpiring, and line judging.

The combined efforts have allowed a legacy to transpire through these tournaments, which could see local players competing on the international stage (wildcard prospects) for the first time, further opportunities for the local workforce in officiating and events,

See NMI on Page 26

SSHS doubles KHS' points in HS hoops

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Saipan Southern High School girls varsity basketball team doubled and added 1 point against Kagman High School to win, 30-16, last Wednesday in the continuation of the 2022 IT&E Interscholastic Girls High School Basketball League at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Once the shots started coming, they wouldn't stop coming for the Lady Mantas as Yasmin Younis opened up the game with a 3-pointer and racked up 11 more points throughout the night.

At this point, the Ayuyus have already scored their team's 16 points—11 of which were made by Kaitani Tudela. Teammate Irieyana Aughenbaugh scored a 3-pointer. while Kiana Camacho scored a field goal, which would eventually be their final score as they were stopped in their tracks by the Mantas' defense.

The Mantas' Andrea Ramos scored 9, Lency Sagarino and Angel Calage scored 2 each, while Kathyryn Sablan

See SSHS on Page 26

LEIGH GASES
Two Saipan Southern High School girls varsity basketball players set up a tight screen against a drive made by a Kagman High School varsity player in the continuation of the 2022 IT&E Interscholastic Girls High School Basketball League last Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.